

11/5/13

Judges 13-14

We come to the life of Samson, a sad life indeed, due to his great potential and diminished wiliness to obey God.

Four chapters are dedicated to him, which reveal three things.

1. His call.
2. His compromise.
3. His consequences.

13:1-5 *The prophecy of the birth of Samson to his mother.*

13:1 The spiritually decayed condition of the people of God.

- 1) The usual pattern of life of the children of Israel, they did evil in the sight of the LORD. vs. 1
* The phrase is repeated for the seventh and last time in the book, without any concern for Yahweh. Judges 2:11; 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1a; 10:6; 13:1a
- 2) The usual response of God was to delivered them into the hand of their enemies, this time the Philistines for forty years.” vs. 1b
 - a) The phrase is repeated for the fourth time, with the absence of crying out to

God for deliverance. Judges 2:14; 6:1; 8:34; 13:1b

- b) The conflict with the Philistines goes back to the time of Jephthah. Judges 10:6
 - 1)) The Philistines were in the land of Canaan harassing Israel, till their final defeat by David.
 - 2)) The Philistines had five cities along the southern coast, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron and Gath, today commonly called the Gaza strip.
 - 3)) Shamgar the son of Anath killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel. Judges 3:31
- c) Israel had become apathetic and indifferent to live along side the pagans, settling for an inferior life of subjugation, the longest bondage to the enemy, forty years, which symbolizes judgment.
 - 1)) The Philistines came from Crete and were in the land since Abraham. Gen. 10:14; 21:32, 34; 26:1, 8, 14, 15
 - 2)) The Philistines had stopped the wells dug by Abraham and Isaac dug them again. Gen. 26:18

- 3)) God did not lead Israel by the land of the Philistines, lest they saw war and returned to Egypt. Ex. 13:17
- d) Samson judged Israel, as the 12th judge “in the days of the Philistines for 20 years. Judges 15:20
 - * The Romans salted the land and named it *Palestina*, after their enemies the Philistines, in order to insult the Jews, about 132-35 A.D.

13:2-3 The unique particulars at the revelation.

- 1) The introduction of the future parents of Samson. vs. 2
 - a) The father is identified by three things. vs. 2a-c
 - 1)) His city, “Zorah”, meaning “hornet”, in the Zorek valley between Dan and Judah, in the coastal low lands of Judah “the Shephelah”, about eight miles or so east of Ekron the city of the Philistine and 14 miles west of Jerusalem. vs. 2a
 - 2)) His family, “of the Danites, due west of Jerusalem bordering Gaza on the west, between Benjamin and Judah. vs. 2b
 - * Later Dan moved to the north to occupy more land, which became the idolatrous alter of Jeroboam.

- 3)) His name, “whose name *was* Manoah”, and means rest. vs. 2c
- b) His mother is nameless, but identified in two ways. vs. 2d
 - 1)) Her shame of being barren”, indicating disfavor with God.
 - 2)) Her being childless, as Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel.
- 2) The appearance of the Angel of the LORD revealed to the woman that she would bare a child. vs. 3
 - a) The Angel of the LORD, is the Lord Jesus Christ, prior to the Incarnation, called a Christophany.
 - 1)) This is the tenth time it appears in the book. Judges 2:1, 4; 5:23; 6:11, 12, 21(2x’s), 22(2x’s); 13:3
 - 2)) It appears nine times in this chapter. Judges 13:3, 13, 15, 16(2x’s), 17, 18, 20, 21
 - 3) He appeared to Abraham, Moses, Joshua and David.
 - b) Hannah, the mother of Samuel and Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist were also told they would bear sons, being barren. 1Sam. 1; Lk. 2

13:4-5 The specific instructions for the raising of Samson were imparted.

- 1) She was to abstain from alcohol and certain foods. vs. 4

- * Altering her state of mind from God and defile her ceremonially.
- 2) Her son was to be a Nazarite “nazuyr”, meaning one separated or consecrated to God from the womb. vs. 5
 - a) A chief identification of Samson being no razor shall come upon his head. vs. 5b-c
 - 1)) John the Baptist was not only announced beforehand like Samson, but also was to be a Nazirite. Lk. 1:15
 - 1)) The Law of the Nazarite with all the particulars. Num. 6:1-21
 - 2)) Men and women were eligible for whatever length of their vow of consecration to the LORD of their own will, not demanded. vs. 2
 - * Samson failed all three prohibitions, rather than live up to his name Samson, “like a sun”, he liked the darkness!
 - 3)) The faithful Rachabites, related to the Kenites were tested by Jeremiah for their vow. Jer. 35
 - * One is found serving at the dung gate. Neh. 3:14
 - b) The purpose of Samson’s birth is stated, he would begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, but fail to complete it, as the 12th judge.” vs. 5d

13:6-14 *The prophecy of the birth of Samson to his father.*

- 13:6-7** The woman told the news to her husband Manoah.
- 1) She described the appearance of a man, taking him for a prophet with a striking angelic face, obtaining no other identity. vs. 6
 - * The phrase “very awesome” means fearful awe..
 - 2) She declared the revelation of the birth, her Nazirite vow and the child’s call to be a Nazirite from the womb till death. vs. 7
- 13:8-14** The father of Samson turned to seek God for further instructions. vs. 8-14
- 1) Manoah petitioned God, calling Him “my Lord”. vs. 8
 - 2) The Lord Jesus appeared again to the women, Manoah not being present, she ran to get Manoah. vs. 9-10
 - 3) Manoah went with his wife and spoke to the Lord Jesus. vs. 11-12
 - a) He called his wife, “this woman?” And He said, “I *am*.” vs. 11c-d
 - c) Manoah confessed his faith in the revelation, “Now let Your words come *to pass!*” and asked the nature of the boys call. vs.12

- 4) Manoah was given the responsibility to oversee the obedience of his wife. vs. 13-14

* To complete obedience to her food sanctification to the heavenly authority.

13:15-25 *The prophecy fulfilled about the birth of Samson.*

13:15-16 The desire of Manoah and his wife was to show hospitality to the heavenly visitor.

- 1) They offered to prepare a meal for Him, being the closest thing you could do in those days, nourished by the same food.
- 2) They were disappointed by the visitor, but redirected to offer it to the LORD, Yahweh. vs. 16
 - a) A burnt offering indicated complete dedication and consecration to God.
 - b) The commentary is given, “For Manoah did not know He *was* the Angel of the LORD.”

13:17-20 The intent of Manoah and his wife was to honor the heavenly visitor.

- 1) They wanted to honor to his name when the prophecy of the birth of the child came to pass. vs. 17
- 2) They were mysteriously answered, as to His name, “wonderful?” vs. 18

* The word wonderful “pil’iy”, means secret, remarkable, incomprehensible, surpassing, extraordinary, describing the character and the nature of God, this is the name of Jesus, Yahweh is salvation, a related word prophesied of Jesus by Isaiah. Gen. 32:29; Is. 9

- 3) They were enlightened to his identity, as they offer their offerings. vs. 19
 - a) The grain offering was symbolic of service to God. vs. 19a
 - b) The wondrous thing witnessed by them was that Jesus ascended up in the flame back to heaven. vs. 19b-20b

* Just like with Gideon. Judges 6:20-21
 - c) This caused them to worship God, putting their faces to the ground.” vs. 20c-d

13:21-23 The man Manoah and his wife realized the true identity of the heavenly visitor.

- 1) The Second person of the Godhead, Jesus, the pre-incarnate Messiah. vs. 21
- 2) The fearful response of Manoah was that they were going to die because they had seen God. vs. 22

* God told Moses, “You cannot **see** My face; for no man shall **see** Me, and **live**.” Ex. 33:20

- 3) The reasonable response of Manoah's wife dispelled his fear, in view of all the revelation of the birth and instructions. vs. 23

13:24-25 Manoah and his wife saw the fulfillment of the heavenly visitor, Jesus.

- 1) The woman conceived and brought forth a male child and grew under the blessing of God. vs. 24
- a) She named him Samson
"Shimshon", means like the sun.
- 1)) Beth-shemesh "house of the sun" was 3-4 miles south of Zorah.
- 2)) The word grew "gadal", means to grow and become great.
- b) The woman witnessed the hand of God grooming Samson, "and the LORD blessed him." vs. 24c
- 1)) The same is said of Samuel, "The child grew and the LORD blessed him." 1Sam. 3:19
- 2)) What is lacking for Samson is the words, "and let none of his words fall to the ground". 1Sam. 3:19
- 2) The source and enablement of Samson for his call as the 12th judge. vs. 25
- a) The source of Samson's power was imparted to him, "Spirit of the LORD, Yahweh".
- * The word move "pa'am", means to urge, thrust or impel.

- b) The region of Samson's judgeship was the area of his home.
- 1)) Mahaneh "machaneh" means camp, the camp of Dan.
- 2)) Ten or so miles due east of Zorah and Eshtaol, which were only about 2-3 miles apart.
- 3)) Samson spent all his life in the close vicinity of his home town, all being, the furthest being Ashkelon and Gaza.

14:1-4 *The compromise of Samson to fall in love with a pagan.*

- 1) Samson was attracted to pagan women. vs. 1
- a) He went down to Timnah, referring to the geographical altitude, but what a truth is mark when we are friends with the world, the only way we can go is "down", found five times in the chapter. vs. 1, 5, 7, 10, 19
- b) He saw a woman in Timnah about four miles east of Zorah and a Philistine cutie caught his eye. vs. 1b
- * He placed himself in the place of temptation, being very comfortable among his enemies. 1Jn. 2:16
- 2) He ascended back up to Zorah to tell his father and father to go make arrangement to marry her. vs. 2

- a) The phrase “I have seen a woman” literally means she is right in my eyes.
- b) The contradiction is in that fact that she is a Philistine and violating his Nazarite call. Duet. 7:1-3 ;2Cor. 6:14
- c) He commands his parents, “get her for me as a wife.”
 - * Usually parent arranged the marriages, but he Samson is choosing for himself and ordering this parents to go along with the clear compromise. Gen. 28:1-2; 24:34-38;34:4
- 3) The parents immediately objected to the order and compromise. vs. 3
 - a) The rebuke is clear, “*Is there* no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” vs. 3a-d
 - b) The stern rebellious decision of Samson is declared, And Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she pleases me well.” vs. 3e-f
- 4) The commentary on the occasion. vs. 4
 - a) It does not mean that God was behind the compromise of the marriage.
 - b) It means that his parents did no know that God seeking an opportunity against the Philistines, so God would

use even this disobedience to use him against the Philistines.

- c) The reason being that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

14:5-9 *The encounter of Samson with a lion.*

- 1) Samson and his parents went down to Timnah and were going through the vineyards of Timnah when a lion attacked Samson. vs. 5
 - * There were lions and bears all around, remember David recued a lamb from a bear and a lion. 1Sam. 17:34-37
- 2) Samson was empowered by God and he tour the lion with his bare hands, as if it were a little goat. vs. 6a
 - * He violated his Nazarite consecration by touching a dead body.
- 3) But he did not inform his parents about it, indicating they were not together going through the vineyards. vs. 6b
- 4) Samson arrived at Timnah and spoke with the woman; and she pleased him well. vs. 7
- 5) Samson after some time went back to get her and on the way he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion and there were a swarm of bees and honey in it. vs. 8
- 6) Samson scooped up some of the honey and continued walking as he ate it and gave some to his parents also to eat,

without telling them it was it was from a carcass of the lion. vs. 9

* Samson once again willfully defiled himself and his mother and father by not telling them, prohibited to all Jews.

14:10-14 *The wager regarding a riddle at the wedding feast of Samson.*

- 1) Samson's father and he went down to the woman and Samson threw a customary feast there. vs. 10
- 2) The Philistines brought thirty companions to be with him, some say as guests of the bridegroom other as bodyguards. vs. 11
- 3) Samson asked permission to pose a riddle to the thirty men, to be solved in the seven days of the feast, if so he would give them thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing. vs. 12
 - a) Linen garment were rectangular undergarment or outer robe.
 - b) Change of clothing was worn for festive occasion.
 - c) Laban threw a seven day feast for Leah and Jacob. Gen. 29:22
- 4) If they failed, they would give Samson thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing, so they jumped at the challenge, "Pose your riddle, that we may hear it." vs. 13

- 5) Samson stated the riddle, "Out of the eater came something to eat, And out of the strong came something sweet, but they were stumped for three days. vs. 14

14:15-18 *The solving of the riddle deceitfully.*

- 1) After the seventh day the men confronted Samson's wife to entice your husband to explain the riddle to them. vs. 15
- 2) The alternative was that they would burn he and her father's house with fire. vs. 15
- 3) They accused her of having invited them to take what they had. vs. 15
- 4) Samson's wife pulled the poor me strategy weeping saying he hated her and not loving her by not having explained the riddle to her. vs. 16
- 5) Samson replied he had not even told his parents, he had no obligation to tell her. vs. 16
- 6) Samson cave in on the seventh day and told his wife the riddle for she pressed "twuwq" to distress and pressure him. vs. 17
- 7) The men gave the answer to the riddle on the last day. vs. 18
 - a) "What *is* sweeter than honey? And what *is* stronger than a lion?" vs. 18
 - b) Samson rebuked them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have solved my riddle!" vs. 18

14:19-20 *The payment of the wager regarding the riddle.*

- 1) Samson misused the power of God for his own benefit. vs. 19
 - a) Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, to fight against the Philistines. vs. 19
 - b) But instead Samson went 20 miles to the Philistine city of Ashkelon to killed thirty men, to pay off his debt. vs. 19
 - c) He was so angry that he went back up to his father's house. vs. 19
- 2) Samson's wife was *given* to his companion, who had been his best man. vs. 20