

11/3/13

Samson, The Nazarite
Judges 13:1-25

We come to Samson is the 12th judge, who occupies four chapters in the book of Judges, providing his call, compromise and consequences.

The Old Testament accounts are valuable of real people as ourselves and we are to study, meditate and benefit from their success and failures, lest we fail in the same way of so many.

- 1) “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” 1Cor. 10:11
- 2) Samson offers us many valuable lessons against a carnal life!

We want to look at the prophetic birth of Samson, consisting of three movements: Judges 13:1-23

- I. The birth of Samson announced. vs. 1-5
- II. The birth of Samson confirmed. vs. 6-14
- III. The birth of Samson celebrated. vs. 15-25

I. The birth of Samson announced. vs. 1-5

- A. The usual pattern of life of the children of Israel. vs. 1

1. The yielding to a life of sin, “Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD.” vs. 1a
 - a. The phrase is repeated for the seventh and last time in the book. Judges 2:11; 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1a; 10:6; 13:1a
 - b. The indication being without concern for Yahweh, their covenant God.
2. The response of God to their life of sin, “and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.” vs. 1b
 - a. The phrase is repeated for the fourth time. Judges 2:14; 6:1; 8:34; 13:1b
 - b. There is the absence of crying out to God for deliverance.
 - 1) The people of God had become apathetic and indifferent to live along side the pagans.
 - 2) The people of God had settled for an inferior life of subjugation.
 - 3) This is the longest of their bondage to the enemy, forty years, which symbolizes judgment.
3. The conflict with the Philistines goes back to the time of Jephthah.
 - a. “Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the

Philistines; and they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him.”

Judges 10:6

- b. The Philistines came from Crete and were in the land since Abraham. Gen. 10:14; 21:32, 34; 26:1, 8, 14, 15
 - c. The Philistines had stopped the wells dug by Abraham and Isaac dug them again. Gen. 26:18
 - d. God did not lead Israel by the land of the Philistines, lest they saw war and returned to Egypt. Ex. 13:17
 - e. The Philistines were in the land of Canaan harassing Israel, till their final defeat by David.
 - f. The Philistines had five cities along the southern coast, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron and Gath, today commonly called the Gaza strip.
 - g. Shamgar the son of Anath killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel. Judges 3:31
 - h. Samson judge Israel, as the 12th judge “in the days of the Philistines for 20 years. Judges 15:20
 - i. The Romans salted the land and named it *Palestina* to insult the Jews, after their enemies about 132-35 A.D.
- B.** The unique particulars at the revelation. vs. 2-6

1. The father and mother of Samson to be are introduced. vs. 2
 - a. The father is identified by three things. vs. 2a-c
 - 1) His city, “Now there was a certain man from 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 family of the Danites, which was about the same latitude as Jerusalem due west and bordered Gaza on the west, between Benjamin and Judah, later Dan moved to the north to occupy more land, which became the idolatrous alter of Jeroboam. vs. 2b
 - 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) By her shame, “and his wife *was* barren”, which indicated disfavor with God, as Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel.
 - 2) By being childless, “and had no children”, confirming her barrenness.

2. The appearance of the Angel of the LORD was to reveal to Samson's mother to be that she would bare a child, "And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son." 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 Elizebeth, the mother of John the Baptist were also told they would bear sons, being barren. 1Sam. 1, Lk. 2
3. The specific instructions for the raising of Samson was imparted. vs. 4-5
 - a. She was to abstain from certain foods, "Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or *similar* drink, and not to eat anything unclean." vs. 4
 - 1) Drink that altered his state of mind from God.

- 2) Food that would defile him ceremonially.
- b. Her son was to be a Nazarite "nazuyr", meaning one separated or consecrated to God. vs. 5
 - 1) The affirmation of Samson's birth, "For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son." vs. 5a
 - 2) The identification of Samson from conception, "And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb." vs. 5b-c
 - * John the Baptist was not only announced beforehand like Samson, but also was to be a Nazirite. Lk. 1:15
 - 3) The purpose of Samson's birth, "and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." vs. 5d
 - * God declared Samson's failure, as the 12th judge before his birth, "he shall begin to deliver Israel".
- c. The Law of the Nazarite. Num. 6:1-21
 - 1) Men and women were eligible for whatever length of their vow of consecration to the LORD of their own will, not demanded. vs. 2
 - a) Unless called as Samson, John the Baptist, etc.

- b) The Mishnah, meaning to repeat, which was the oral traditions that developed about the law, containing interpretation and applications, stating 30-100 days.
- 2) The conditions were to abstain from wine, strong drink, vinegar, grape juice, grapes and raisins for the expressed duration. vs. 4
 - 3) No razor was to come upon his head, until the days of his vow were completed, being holy to the LORD. vs. 5
 - 4) No defilement by a dead body could touch him, even if a family member died, being holy to the LORD. vs. 6-8
* He failed all three prohibitions, rather than live up to his name Samson, “like a sun”, he liked the darkness!
 - 5) If a dead body touched him and defile him, he would have to be purified for seven days, shave his head. vs. 9
 - 6) On the eighth day he would offer two turtle doves or pigeons, the poorest person would be able to afford to vow as a Nazirite. vs. 10
 - 7) The eighth day he would offer one for sin for forgiveness, the other

- for a burnt offering for dedication and consecration,. vs. 11
- 8) A lamb for a trespass, rededicating his vow, loosing the previous time. vs. 12
 - 9) The fulfillment of his vow would also follow sacrifices and the shaving of his hair and burning it at the peace offering. vs. 13-21

Illustration

For God to declare the birth of someone before their birth is as natural as you declaring the day your child was born, it is not absurd!

Application

1. Each of us are called to be a type of Nazarite to God to live holy for life.
 - a. “Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord, and touch not what is unclean, and I will receive you.” 2Cor. 6:17
 - b. “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor.” 1Thess. 4:3a-4
 - c. “But as he who calls you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.” 1Pet. 1:15
 - d. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not

be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Rom. 12:1-2

2. Each of us like a Nazarite reminds the world of God’s holiness, as we are clay yielding to the potter’s hand.
 - a. Samson was separated by God from the world, yet as we will see, he joined himself to the world.
 - b. He was a man with total opportunity, yet as we will see he threw away the best opportunities.
 - c. He was endowed with the Spirit of God, yet as we will see, he gave in to the spirit of his flesh.
 - d. He was to manifest God’s wisdom, yet as we will see, he displayed his foolish choices.
 - e. He was mighty in physical strength, yet as we will see, he was spiritually anemic.
 - f. He had heaven before him, yet as we will see, he chose this world.
 - g. He feasted with the world, married an unbeliever, avenged himself, visited prostitutes and never delivered Israel.
 - * “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” Gal. 6:7-8

3. Each of us like Nazarites are called by Christ to dedicate ourselves totally to Him.
 - a. To live for Him. Gal. 2:20
 - b. To be a witness of Him. Acts 1:8
 - c. To abstain from every form of evil or anything that would influence, control me. 1Thess. 5:22
 - * “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.” Eph. 5:18

The birth of Samson was announced beforehand by God!

II. The birth of Samson confirmed. vs. 6-14

- A. The mother of Samson told the news to her husband Manoah. vs. 6-7
 1. She described the appearance of a man. vs. 6
 - a. She took the man for a prophet, but with an awe striking face, “So the woman came and told her husband, saying, “A Man of God came to me, and His countenance *was* like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome.” vs. 6a-b
 - b. She forgot to inquire about him, “but I did not ask Him where He *was* from, and He did not tell me His name.” vs. 6c

2. She declared the revelation of the birth. vs. 7
 - a. The revelation was marked with prophetic authority, “And He said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son.’” vs. 7a-c
 - b. The revelation was for her sanctification, in view of the child, “Now drink no wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean.” vs. 7d-e
 - c. The revelation indicated a call for life for the child to be born, “for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.” vs. 7f
- B.** The father of Samson turned to seek God. vs. 8-14
1. Manoah petitioned God. vs. 8
 - a. For a second visit by the man, “Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, “O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent,” vs. 8a-d
 - b. For more instructions, “come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born.” vs. 8d
 2. The Lord Jesus appeared again. vs. 9-10
 - a. His petition was granted, “And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field.” vs. 9a-b

- b. He was not present again, “but Manoah her husband *was* not with her.” vs. 9c
 - c. She sought Manoah out, “Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, “Look, the Man who came to me the *other* day has just now appeared to me!” vs. 10
3. Manoah went with his wife. vs. 10
 - a. Manoah presented himself before the man, “So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man.” vs. 10a-b
 - b. Manoah inquired of his person, “he said to Him, “Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?” And He said, “I *am*.” vs. 11c-d
 - c. Manoah confessed his faith in the revelation, asking the nature of his call or work, “Manoah said, “Now let Your words come *to pass*! What will be the boy’s rule of life, and his work?” vs.12
 4. Manoah, whose name means “rest” was given the responsibility to oversee the obedience of his wife. vs. 13-14
 - a. To complete obedience, “So the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful.” vs. 13
 - b. To total sanctification, “She may not eat anything that comes from the vine,

nor may she drink wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean.” vs. 14a-c

- c. To His absolute authority, “All that I commanded her let her observe.” vs. 14d

Illustration

Listen to God, “The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat?” says the LORD. *Is* not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer *that* breaks the rock in pieces? Therefore behold, I *am* against the prophets,” says the LORD, “who steal My words every one from his neighbor. “Behold, I *am* against the prophets,” says the LORD, “who use their tongues and say, ‘He says.’ “Behold, I *am* against those who prophesy false dreams,” says the LORD, “and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all,” says the LORD.” Jer. 23:28-32

Application

1. There have been many in history past that have passed off their teachings as under divine authority, as they contradicted the Scriptures.
 - a. The two groups of Gnostics that taught Jesus did not have a human body and that matter

was evil and spirit good, therefore you could enjoy sin and still serve God. 2nd century

- b. The Arian Heresy that Jesus was created, denying His deity, 280 A.D.
- c. The Apollinarians denied the total human nature of Christ, 381 A.D.
- d. Nestorians denied the two natures of Jesus, denying the God-Man, 431 A.D.
- e. Eutychians carried the deification of Christ’s humanity to such extremes that he taught Christ’s body was not of the same nature as ours, called Monophysites because they reduced the two natures into one, 451 A.D.
 - * We are to be good Bereans, to examine if what is taught is true to God’s word. Acts 17:11

2. There are many in the present that do the same, speaking with a sort of divine authority as new revelation
 - a. The heresy of the prosperity doctrine, that you are to be healthy and wealthy because you are a little god and is your divine right.
 - b. There was the “signs and wonder movement” by the late John Wimber that went beyond the Scriptures to personal experience.
 - c. There has been the barking in the Spirit and flying like animals, etc, giving the world more opportunity to mock the church.
 - d. Some are being deceived today by going to the extreme of predestination at the exclusion of man’s free will, drawing lined and camps, just abide in Christ!

- e. “The Purpose Driven Church Doctrine”, it is a humanistic gospel, a self-help book that twists the interpretation of Scripture in order that you feel good about yourself.
 - f. There is the “emergent church movement” that is redefining the church and the Christian with its new vocabulary, contradicting the Scriptures.
3. There will be others in the future that will attempt the same things.
 2. The Holy Spirit warns about the latter times. 1Tim. 4:1
 - a. The proclamation is the explicit word of the Holy Spirit to the church warning about the nature of the latter times.
 - b. Some will depart from the faith.
 - d. The method is, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.
 3. There are various examples of the dangers of teaching with no regard to doctrine.
 - a. Jesus said, “You are mistaken not knowing the “Scriptures” nor the “power” of God.” Matt. 22:29
 - b. Peter says, “As natural brute beasts speak evil of the things that they understand not.” 2Pet. 2:12
 - c. Peter again says, “They twist them to their own destruction.” 2Pet 3:16
 - d. Paul says, “They pervert the gospel.” Gal. 1:6-9

The birth of Samson was confirmed by God!

III. The birth of Samson celebrated. vs. 15-23

- A. Manoah and his wife wanted to show hospitality to the heavenly visitor. vs. 15-16
 1. They offered to prepare a meal for Him, “Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, “Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You.” vs. 15
 - a. Eating with someone was the closest thing you could do in those days.
 - b. Eating the same food, you were partaking of the same nourishment.
 2. They were disappointed by the visitor. vs. 16
 - a. He refused the invitation, “And the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food.” vs. 16a-c
 - b. He redirected the invitation, “But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD.” vs. 16d-e
 - c. He was not recognized to be God, “(For Manoah did not know He *was* the Angel of the LORD.)” vs. 16f
- B. Manoah and his wife wanted to honor the heavenly visitor. vs. 17-20
 1. They wanted to give honor to his name when the prophecy of the birth of the child came to pass” Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, “What *is* Your

name, that when Your words come *to pass* we may honor You?” vs. 17

2. They were mysteriously answered, “And the Angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask My name, seeing it is 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. vs. 19
 - a. This took place as they offered the sacrifice, “So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD.” vs. 19a
 - b. This allowed them to see Him ascend to heaven, “And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on-- it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar--the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar!” vs. 19b-20b
 - * Just like with Gideon. Judges 6:20-21
 - c. This caused them to worship God, “When Manoah and his wife saw *this*,

they fell on their faces to the ground.” vs. 20c-d

- C. Manoah and his wife realized the true identity of the heavenly visitor. vs. 21-23
 1. He was the Second person of the God-head, Jesus, the pre-incarnate Messiah, “When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He *was* the Angel of the LORD.” vs. 21
 2. The fearful response of Manoah was expressed, “And Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, because we have 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, “But his wife said to him, “If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these *things*, nor would He have told us *such things* as these at this time.” vs. 23
- D. Manoah and his wife saw the fulfillment of the heavenly visitor, Jesus. vs. 24-25
 1. The LORD Yahweh prepared Samson for his call to be the 13th judge. vs. 24

- a. The woman conceived and brought forth a male child, “So the woman bore a son”. vs. 24a
 - b. The woman named her son, “and called his name Samson”. vs. 24a
 - 1) Samson “Shimshown”, means like the sun.
 - 2) Beth-shemesh “house of the sun” was 3-4 miles south of Zorah.
 - c. The woman saw her son Samson grow into a man, “and the child grew”. vs. 24b
 - * The word grew “gadal”, means to grow and become great.
 - d. 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 LORD Yahweh enabled Samson for his call as the 12th judge. vs. 25
- a. The source of Samson’s power was imparted to him, “And the Spirit of the LORD, Yahweh, began to move upon him.”
 - * The word move “pa’am”, means to urge, thrust or impel.

- b. The region of Samson’s judgeship was the area of his home, “at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol”.
 - 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.

Illustration

Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist celebrated the great work God was about to do through his son, “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.” Lk. 1:76-79

Application

- 1. We as parents are to thank God for our children.
 - a. For the privilege of being able to reproduce.
 - b. For their strong bodies, intellectual capacities, etc.
 - c. For the joy they add to our lives.

- d. For the close bond that children bring between a husband and wife.
* “Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, The **fruit** of the **womb** is a reward.” Ps. 127:3
2. We as parents want to honor the name of Jesus for our children by raising them according to the Scriptures.
- By telling them that we were saved out of sin by the gospel through repentance.
 - Be teaching them the word of God and the love of God, so they can live by it.
 - By setting boundaries and consequences for their words and deeds, to correct and guide them till they leave the home.
 - By praying for them that they obey God and He guide and strengthen them in all their temptations and testings.
 - By providing an example of godliness, as parents who believe and live for Jesus.
 - “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” Eph 6:4
 - “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.” Col. 3:20
3. We as parents can’t wait to see how God will use our children.
- As they begin to learn to pray and learn the word.
 - As they begin to minister to their friends.
 - As they begin to serve in the church.

- d. As they stand fast against their peer pressure and the evil of the world.
- Jesus prayed to the Father, “Sanctify them by Your truth, Your word is truth”. Jn. 17:17
 - “Let no one despise your youth, but be an **example** to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” 1Tim. 4:12
4. We as parents sometimes are greatly disappointed with the choices of our children to live short of their God-given potential.
- Hanging out with unbelieving all the time.
 - Going along with the worldly life-style of their friends.
 - Marring their character, bring many lasting consequences on themselves, like Samson.
* “Can a man take **fire** to his **bosom**, And his clothes not be burned?” Prov. 6:27

The birth of Samson was celebrated by worshipping God!

Conclusion

The prophetic birth of Samson consisted of three movements:

- The birth of Samson was announced beforehand by God!
- The birth of Samson was confirmed by God!
- The birth of Samson was celebrated by worshipping God!