

THEBIBLELAB

Yes & No =

1. I have remained faithful to all of my New Year's resolutions.

- 2. I made a resolution to stop making New Year's resolutions years ago!
- 3. The dietary restrictions of the Old Testament are simply for our best health, & not meant to be tests of faithfulness.
- 4. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was only fully invested and available to a chosen few key leaders.
- 5. I must uphold my end of the bargain in order for God to uphold His.

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‡ What is one of the longest resolutions (or vows) that you've ever kept?

» READ Judges 13

‡ A NAZIRITE:

Δ Defined in Numbers 6:

- [†] Abstain from wine, wine vinegar, grapes, raisins, intoxicating liquors, vinegar made from such substances, and eating or drinking any substance that contains any trace of grapes.
- † Refrain from cutting the hair on one's head; but to allow the locks of the head's hair to grow.
- † Not to become ritually impure by contact with corpses or graves, even those of family members.

△ Two examples in the Old Testament: Samson & Samuel

- † In both of these cases, God is intent in communicating this to the mothers, not the fathers. This goes against the enforced laws.
- Δ At the end of the nazirite vow: the person would immerse in a mikveh (baptismal font) and make three offerings: a lamb as a burnt offering (olah), a ewe as a sin-offering (hatat), and a ram as a peace offering (shelamim), in addition to a basket of unleavened bread, grain offerings and drink offerings, which accompanied the peace offering. They would also shave their head in the outer court yard of the Jerusalem Temple and then place the hair on the same fire as the peace offering
- Δ Two examples in the New Testament: John the Baptist (Luke 1:13-15) & Jesus † Mark 14:25 At the last supper (Feast of the Unleavened Bread), Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

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‡ WHAT DOES THIS SAY ABOUT GOD?

Δ FIRST: God speaks to the woman, not the man

† Once again, we see that God chooses to work with a barren, childless woman, instead of just choosing a perfectly anatomically functioning husband and wife. What does this say about God?

Δ SECOND: The special diet, and prohibitions

- † The diet and prohibitions seem to be more of a foreshadowing and hidden message of things to come.
 - » What are some of the possible connections that we can make?

Δ THIRD: Was the Holy Spirit limited back then?

† It seems as if God's Holy Spirit was only available (or placed) upon a chosen few. Is that accurate, and what does it say about God if this is true?

Δ FOURTH: A fiery exit

† Why do you think God's messenger chose to exit through the flames of the sacrifice? Is there possible imagery here?

Δ FIFTH: Different perceptions of God's character

† Based on their reactions after the angel left, how did Samson's mother understand the character of God better than his father?

My Prayers This Week...

- 1. What is causing me to spiritually tremble with fear?
- 2. What signs has God been asking me to show Him?
- 3. How does this section of Scripture help me see more of God's character?