

Episode #534 Judges 13 – Samson 1: A New Deliverer

I. In the book of Judges, we have a brief record of the early history (the first centuries) of the history of the land of Israel. We see the leaders God chose, judges, who ruled under Jehovah, the King. Through the lives and work of these judges, we can learn about God's works and ways.

II. Another servitude. Judges 13:1. This time to the Philistines to the southwest. Forty years, the longest period yet. If we add up the periods of servitude, 8 Mosopotamia + 18 Moab + 20 Canaan + 7 Midian + 40 Philistia = 93 years of servitude. This is the difference between the years of I Kings 6:1 and the years Paul gives in Acts 13:20-22, a total of 93 years. So we see these years of servitude were Anno Mundi, according to the world years, but not Anno Dei, according to God's timetable years since during this time He had cast Israel off and they were "not My people."

III. The birth of a deliverer.

- A. Judges 13:2. Zorah = "Hornet," in the territory formerly of Judah, but they had too much, so part of the original (southern) inheritance of Dan, and thus near the Philistines. Manoah = "Rest." A rare high spot for Dan, the serpent tribe.
- B. Verse 3. "The woman," interesting that her name is never given. The Messenger of the LORD, pre-incarnate Christ? Tells of a promised son.
- C. Verse 4. He gives prohibitions to her while pregnant. They were not supposed to eat unclean things normally, but she is to be extra careful.
- D. Verse 5. The reason for these prohibition: the child shall be a Nazirite (naziyr, consecrated or devoted) from the womb. What was this vow?
 1. Numbers 6:1-4. During this vow, he could drink no wine or alcoholic drink, or eat anything to do with grapes.
 2. Numbers 6:5. No cutting his hair
 3. Numbers 6:6-8. No touching a dead body.
 4. This vow could be to show devotion to the LORD, "I will be a Nazirite for three years," or to vow to do something, "I will be a Nazirite until I do a certain thing." Paul, Acts 18:18, compare verse 21.
 5. In Samson's case, he is to be a Nazirite from birth. His whole life is to be marked by radical devotion to God.
- E. Note: he is going to BEGIN to deliver Israel from the Philistines. Samuel will continue it, then Saul, and finally David will utterly defeat them.
- F. Verse 6. Her description of the Angel to her husband. She describes Him as a Man of God who looks like an Angel.
- G. Verse 7. Repeats His words. Notice that she remembers the gist of what He said but not the exact words. The Spirit inspires an exact record of both.
- H. Verse 8. Manoah wants to see Him himself. He seems to think he is the man so he should take charge of this.
- I. Verse 9. The Angel comes again...but again to her!
- J. Verse 10. She runs to get Manoah.
- K. Verse 11. He comes. He asks a rather irrelevant question, but the Angel answers.
- L. Verse 12. Wants to hear the instructions from His lips. He seems to imply, "We are the men. We should be the ones doing business. Let's have a man-to-man talk."
- M. Verse 13. The Angel is having none of it. He more or less says, "Like I said to her." So much for a man-to-man talk. She had the instructions already.

- N. Verse 14. The instructions are the same. Just as He said to her.
- O. Verse 15. He wants to show hospitality and offer Him a meal. Still trying to prove, perhaps, that he is better at this business of meeting a Man of God than his wife.
- P. Verse 16. He will not eat, but will accept a burnt offering, but it must be to Jehovah. Does this imply that he had offered offerings NOT to Jehovah? Points out to us that Manoah still thinks He is a man, not realizing He is the Angel of Jehovah. He is entertaining an angel unawares, Hebrews 13:2.

IV. Israel again fell into idolatry, and this time were enslaved to the Philistines forty years! At last Yahweh raised a new deliverer for them from the unlikely tribe of Dan. The Angel of the LORD came to Manoah's wife who was prepared to receive him. Manoah wanted to be the one to receive the message and tried to take over, but we see that his wife was the one more prepared for a visit from God. Let us all learn to be prepared for the truth God has for us!