

Episode #535 Judges 13 Part 2 – Samson 2: The Wonderful Angel

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. 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 to tell her that she would have a son. She was not to drink wine or any strong drink while pregnant because this child would be a Nazirite. He would begin to deliver Israel. She told her husband and he wanted immediately to see the angel himself and take over. When the angel came to him he wanted him to stay for a meal, but the angel will not eat with them. Instead he orders Manoah to make a sacrifice to Jehovah.

III. The birth of a deliverer.

- A. Verse 17. Manoah wants to know the Angel's name, so as to honor him later.
- B. Verse 18. His name is Wonderful. The Hebrew is *pil'iy*, related to *pele'*, Isaiah 9:6. Shows us that this is the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ.
- C. Verse 19. He gives an offering, and then the Angel does wondrously = *pala'*, the root of *pil'iy* and *pele'*.
- D. Verse 20. The Angel ascends toward the sky in the flame from the altar! Manoah and his wife fall to the ground in awe.
- E. Verse 21. The Angel is gone for good this time. Manoah now realizes He was the Angel of Jehovah.
- F. Verse 22. Manoah thinks they will die because they had seen God. Note: this confirms that the Angel of Jehovah is God.
- G. Verse 23. This was good thinking. His wife shows that she indeed was more prepared for a visit from the Angel than her husband was.

III. The Deliverer Samson.

- A. Judges 13:24. The birth of Samson (Like the Sun). The LORD blessed (spoke well of) him. We will see his good qualities as we continue through his story.
- B. Verse 25. The Spirit of Jehovah is with him. The true secret of his success. Eshtaol (Petition) also part of Dan's proper inheritance.
- C. Judges 14:1. Timnath (Portion) originally part of Judah, but then given to Dan since Judah had too much territory. At this time held by the Philistines.

IV. The marriage of Samson.

- A. Judges 14:2. Unless a family had moved into Israel and worshiped the God of Israel, an Israelite was not supposed to marry a foreigner.
- B. Verse 3. The good arguments of his parents fall on deaf ears. Uncircumcised = has no relationship with Yahweh. Does Samson sound spoiled? Maybe knowing he was to be the deliverer they had allowed him to get whatever he wanted: bad parenting!
- C. Verse 4. The LORD knew what Samson was like so He moved Samson the way Samson needed to be moved. We are reminded: the Philistines ruled Israel.

IV. Manoah tried to take over, but we see that his wife was the one more prepared for a visit from God. This Angel says His name is Wonderful, as Christ's is, and did a wondrous thing. Our Lord was indeed active all throughout the Old Testament. He was the One Who truly delivered His people again and again through the judges, just as He is the One Who would ultimately die on the cross to deliver all of us from our sins! Samson was born as promised, but apparently his

parents spoiled him. He was not satisfied with a “good girl” of Israel, but wanted a “bad girl” of the Philistines. May God grant to His people the wisdom to choose Godly marriage partners!