

## **JUDGES 13:8-9 -- GOD WANTS TO WORK THROUGH SAMSON TO BEGIN TO DELIVER ISRAEL FROM THE PHILISTINES, BUT OBEDIENCE IS REQUIRED!!**

*Jdg 13:8 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, "O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born."*

*Jdg 13:9 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; but Manoah her husband was not with her.*

**The Biblical Setting:** - Chapter 13 begins – “*Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.*”

We are then introduced to a godly Danite couple, Manoah and his wife, who was barren and had no children. The Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and told her that indeed she was barren and had borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son! The Angel went on to say **to be careful not to drink wine or similar drink**, and **not to eat anything unclean**. Also **that no razor was to come on the head** of her son as **he was to be a Nazarite to God from the womb.** – **A LIFE LONG VOW!** - And he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

The woman related this incident to her husband. Then we have here an account of a **second visit** which the Angel of God made to Manoah and his wife.

*Jdg 13:8 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, "O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born."*

**Manoah earnestly prayed for it.** He was not incredulous or doubting the story his wife told him; he knew she was a virtuous woman, and therefore the *heart of her husband did safely trust in her*; he knew she would not go about to impose upon him, but,

- He takes it for granted that this child of promise shall in due time be given them, and speaks without hesitation of the child that shall be born. There was not found so great faith, no, not in Zechariah, a priest, then in waiting at the altar of the Lord, and to whom the angel himself appeared, as was in this honest Danite. Things hidden from the wise and prudent, who value themselves upon the niceness of their enquiries, are often revealed unto babes, who know how to prize God's gifts and to take God's word. *Blessed are those that have not seen and yet, as Manoah here, have believed.*
- **All his care is what they should do to the child that should be born.** Good men are more solicitous and desirous **to know the duty that is to be done by them than to know the events that shall occur concerning them;** for duty is ours, events are God's. Solomon enquires concerning the good men should *do*, not the good they should *have*, *Ecc 2:3*.
- He therefore prays to God to send the same blessed messenger again, **to give them further instructions concerning the management of this Nazarite,** fearing lest his wife's joy for the promise might have made her forget some part of the precept, in which he was desirous to be fully informed, and lie under no mistake: “*O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us.*” Those that have heard from heaven cannot but wish to hear more thence, again and again to meet with the man of God. Observe that Manoah does not go or send his servants abroad, to find out this man of God, but seeks him upon his knees, prays to God to send him, and, thus seeking, finds him. Would we have God's messengers, the ministers of his gospel, to bring a word proper for us, and for our instruction? *Entreat the Lord* to send them to us, to teach us, *Rom. 15:30-32* *Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me, [31] that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, [32] that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you.*

**Jdg 13:9** *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; but Manoah her husband was not with her.*

**God graciously granted it:** *God hearkened to the voice of Manoah, Jdg 13:9. God will not fail some way or other to guide those by his counsel that are sincerely desirous to know their duty, and apply themselves to him to teach them, Psa 25:8 Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.*

**Psa 25:9** *The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.*

- **The angel appears the second time also to the wife**, when she is sitting alone, probably tending the flocks, or otherwise well employed in the field where she has retired. Solitude is often a good opportunity of communion with God; good people have thought themselves never less alone than when alone, if God be with them.
- **She goes in all haste to call her husband**, doubtless humbly beseeching the stay of this blessed messenger till she should return and her husband with her, Jdg 13:10, Jdg 13:11. She did not desire him to go with her to her husband, but would bring her husband to him. Those that would meet with **God must attend where He is pleased to manifest Himself**. The man of God is very willing she should call her husband, Joh 4:16. Those that have an acquaintance with the things of God themselves should invite others to the same acquaintance, Joh 1:45, Joh 1:46. Manoah is not disgusted that the angel did not this second time appear to him, but very willingly goes after his wife to the man of God.
- **Manoah having come to the angel**, and being satisfied by him that He was the same that had appeared to his wife, does, with all humility.
  - Welcomes the promise (Jdg 13:12): Now let thy words come to pass; this was the language, not only of his desire, but of his faith, like that of the blessed Virgin, Luk 1:38. “*Be it according to Your word. Lord, I lay hold on what you have said, and depend upon it; let it come to pass.*”
  - Begs that the prescriptions/instructions given might be repeated: How shall we rule the life of the child? The directions were given to his wife, but he looks upon himself as concerned to assist her in the careful management of this promised seed, according to order; for the utmost care of both the parents, and their constant joint endeavor, are little enough to be engaged for the good ordering of children that are devoted to God and to be brought up for him. Let not one devolve it on the other, but both do their best. Observe from Manoah's enquiry,
- When God is pleased to bestow any mercy upon us, our great care must be how to use it well, and as we ought, because it is then only a mercy indeed when it is rightly managed. God has given us bodies, souls, estates; how shall we order them, that we may answer the intent of the donor, and give a good account of them?
- Those to whom God has given children must be very careful how they order them, and what they do unto them, that they may drive out the foolishness that is bound up in their hearts, form their minds and manners well, and train them in the way wherein they should go. Herein pious parents will beg divine assistance. “Lord, teach us how we may order our children, that they may be Nazarites, and living sacrifices to thee.”
- **The angel repeats the directions he had before given (Jdg 13-14): Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. [14] She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe.**
- **Beware and observe**; take heed not only of drinking wine or strong drink, but of eating anything that comes of the vine. Those that would preserve themselves pure must keep at a distance from that which borders upon sin or leads to it. When she was with child of a Nazarite, she must not eat any unclean thing; so those in whom Christ is formed must carefully cleanse themselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, and do nothing to the prejudice of that new man.

## **SUMMARY:**

- **How would you respond to the wonderful news that a son would be born to end your barrenness?**
- **Would you believe the news as Manoah did? Notice the responsibility taken by the father.**
- **Would you be more concerned in how to raise the child or simply be more overjoyed with the fact that you're going to have a son?**
- **How important would it be to you to have another visit from the Angel to confirm, not that you're going to have a son, but how you're going to raise him?**
- **How concerned would you be with the obedience that God is requiring? During pregnancy to stay completely away from strong drink and anything unclean?**
- **To impose the rite of the Nazarite vow on your son for his whole life?**
- **Notice the importance of refraining from strong drink and unclean food – To those in whom Christ is formed, must carefully cleanse themselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit!**

## **TRUST AND OBEY**

*When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,/What a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,/And with all who will trust and obey.*

*Refrain*

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way/To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

*Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,/But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,/Can abide while we trust and obey.*

*Refrain*

*Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,/But our toil He doth richly repay;  
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,/But is blessed if we trust and obey.*

*Refrain*

*But we never can prove the delights of His love/Until all on the altar we lay;  
For the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows,/Are for them who will trust and obey.*

*Refrain*

*Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet/Or we'll walk by His side in the way.  
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;/Never fear, only trust and obey.*

*Refrain*