



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE
JUDGES 13:1-7, 24-25
LESSON: SAMSON'S CALL —June 25, 2017

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 12:1-15 Israel had just won a great battle against the Ammonites (11:32). But instead of joy, in Judges Chapter 12 there was pettiness and quarreling. The tribe of Ephraim was angry and jealous that they were not invited to join in the fighting, though Jephthah said he had invited them but they wouldn't come. This was the same thing they had pulled on Gideon (Chp.8:1-3). And now, Ephraim begins to insult the people of Gilead. They were so angry that they threatened to burn down Jephthah's house with him in it. So, Jephthah explained to them that they failed to come, so they went without Ephraim's help, and the Lord gave Jephthah and his army victory! Therefore, the proud Ephraimites who didn't like being left out had nothing really to complain about. In contrast, Gideon pacified Ephraim by reminding them of Ephraim's accomplishment in the capture of two of the greatest princes of Midian, however, Jephthah took a more direct approach by attacking them in retaliation.

Jephthah defeats 42,000 of their soldiers and the men of Ephraim became fugitives (renegades). There was a test to identify the fugitives from Ephraim, Jephthah places a checkpoint at the fords of the Jordan River and forces all those that tried to pass by, to say the password "*Shibboleth*" which means "*stream*" or "*floods*." If the person could not pronounce the word correctly using the "h" consonant, and instead they say "*Sibboleth*", they would be dragged away and killed. It was a simple test, but it worked. This section ends abruptly with the statement that Jephthah judged Israel six years, died, and was buried in one of the cities of Gilead.

After Jephthah dies, Ibzan of Bethlehem becomes judge and judged Israel for seven years. He had 30 sons and 30 daughters who marry outside their clan. **Ibzan, the tenth judge** dies and is buried at Bethlehem.

After Ibzan dies, **Elon** from Zebulun becomes the **eleventh judge** was who judged Israel for ten years. He dies and is buried at Aijalon in Zebulun.

After Elon dies, **Abdon** (son of Hillel) from Pirathon becomes the **twelveth judge** for eight years. He has 40 sons and 30 grandsons who rode on seventy donkeys. He dies and was buried in Pirathon, in Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

LESSON: I. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SAMSON'S BIRTH Judges 13:1-7

13:1 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years. Once again the cycle of sin returns and God's children began to do evil again in His sight. And He delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. This was the longest servitude that Israel had experienced when handed into the hands of the enemy at a time judges reigned.

1. To Bablyon 8yrs (3:7-8).
2. To Moab 18yrs (3:12-14).

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3. To Philistia—time unknown (3:31).
4. To Canaanites 20yrs (4:1-3).
5. To Midian 7yrs (6:1).
6. To Philistines and Ammonites 18yrs (10:6-18).
7. To Philistines 40yrs (13:1).

He allowed them to be conquered. This suffering was not caused by God, but resulted from, the fact that the people ignored God as their true judge and ruler. The Philistines were able to penetrate the Israelite territory all the way to Shiloh, where they destroyed the tabernacle. How could this happen again? If we continue to harden our hearts against God, we can expect the same fate as Israel. Well, its judge died and it's repetition all over again.

13:2 And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not. In Zorah, there was a man called Manoah from Dan's tribe. He had a wife that could not have children. His name is unknown.

13:3 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. The revelation of God's intention to rescue and deliver Israel happens when the Angel of the Lord appears not to the Deliverer this time, but to the wife of Manoah of the tribe of Dan in the city of Zorah, who is without child; barren. Although her name was not given or mentioned, she was deemed important of an appearance of an Angel of the Lord. He is none other than God Himself (Jesus Christ in angelic form), as He appeared to Abraham and Sarah (Gen.17:19). He is appearing again to give good news to an unnamed woman that she would conceive and bear a son.

13:4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: To prepare her for her son, restrictions are already given to the mother from the Angel of the Lord:

1. You (the mother) shall drink no wine nor strong drink (13:4).
2. You (the mother) shall eat no unclean thing (dead body) (13:4).

Their baby son is not even named yet; not until we get to Judges 13:24.

13:5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. The angel repeats again that she shall conceive and bear a son.

3. No razor shall come upon his (your son's) head (13:5).

The reason for these restrictions is that her child would become a Nazarite unto God. The term "*Nazirite*" comes from the Hebrew word "*nazir*" meaning "*consecrated*" or "*separated*" and doing all the above things. A "*Nazarite Vow*" was usually entered voluntarily for a temporary period, but for this case, it was neither voluntary nor temporary, but for his entire life. The laws governing the Nazarite Vow are given in Numbers 6. In this instance the parents will make the vow for the son (Samson). This was her firstborn and she had to be careful

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as to what she ate and drank because her diet would influence her unborn Nazarite son, and could defile him. There was such an obligation on these parents and also an honor for them and the baby to be born. She will dedicate and separate him (for service) straight from the womb to be a Nazarene, meaning, will be given to God from the time of his birth. And she was told that he would be Israel's Deliverer from the Philistines.

13:6 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name: Being barren, this had to be great news. So, leaving the angel, she ran to tell her husband Manoah. With excitement she told him a man of God, referring to the angel that had appeared to her had the countenance of an angel of God which frightened her. She didn't mince with any questions; didn't even ask who he was, and he didn't even tell her his name.

13:7 But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death. But, the angel did tell her that she would conceive and bear a son. I think that was the most important thing she heard and received. Second, she was not to drink any wine or strong drink. Thirdly, she was not to eat any unclean (contaminated and polluted) thing. As in verse 5, a "*Nazarite Vow*" was usually entered voluntarily for a temporary period, but for this case, it was neither voluntary nor temporary, but for her baby, he would be a Nazarite to God from the time of his birth to the end of his entire life; to the day of his death.

II. THE EARLY LIFE OF SAMSON Judges 13:24-25

13:24 And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. For this purpose, all that Manoah and his wife went through of fulfilling the commitment of the Nazarite Vow, now the son promised to them has been born, and his name is Samson. In this verse is the first of hearing and knowing Manoah and his wife's baby's name. His name means "*sunlight*" or "*brightness*", like the nation of Israel who had been chosen to be holy to God. Samson grew and experienced the blessings.

13:25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol. Samson was prepared from the womb. He was set apart and consecrated in the womb, as his mother fulfilled all that the Angel of the Lord had told her to do. As Samson grew, he was still being groomed for leadership. The Spirit of the Lord began to stir him and give him a sense of God's mission, and he began to display his amazing ability. Because of the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord upon Samson, his power was a weapon to fight. He was what Israel needed at that time in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

SUMMARY:

¹Only two elements in the recurrent pattern remain in the Samson story: apostasy and oppression. We

¹ <http://www.enterthebible.org/resourcelink.aspx?rid=660>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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look in vain for a cry for help or deliverance from the Philistines. Instead, during the forty-year period of Philistine oppression, an Angel of the Lord appeared to the barren wife of an Israelite named Manoah with the announcement that she would bear a son. He was to be a Nazirite, "dedicated" to the Lord at the time of his birth. A Nazirite was forbidden to touch the carcass of dead bodies, to drink alcoholic beverages, or to cut their hair. The special purpose for which Samson was dedicated was the beginning of the deliverance of Israel from the hand of the Philistines. She told her husband in detail what the Man of God said, but she couldn't tell him his name nor did he reveal it to her. All she could say was that she would conceive and bear a son and reveal the Nazarite Vow to him. Her son would be a Nazarite to God from the time of his birth, to the end of his entire life; to the day of his death (**13:1-7**).

The son of Manoah and his wife was born, and he was called Samson, meaning "*sunlight*" or "*brightness*", and the Lord blessed him as he grew. Then the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him and give him a sense of God's mission, and he began to display his amazing ability. Because of the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord upon Samson, his power was a weapon to fight. He was what Israel needed at that time in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol (**13:24-25**).