

What You Need to Know About GIDEON & SAMSON:

“The Dangers of Losing the Final Lap”

Study Number Five – Judges 13:1-25

We’re skipping forward in history by 177 years. Remember they “did evil again in the sight of the Lord,” then they were put in bondage. A judge came and delivered them and then there was a period of silence and then they “did evil again in the sight of the Lord.”

They did that four times. On the fourth one we studied the life of Gideon, the judge who delivered them from the Midianites.

Well they’ve been through the fifth and the sixth cycle and now as the scene of our story opens, we’ve skipped ahead historically 177 years and they’ve been in bondage for forty years to the Philistines.

And we certainly aren’t happy with this situation with the Philistines. The Philistines have been a people who live just to the south and west of Jerusalem. And they are a much hated people, as far as the Israelites are concerned. And it’s been forty years. It’s probably been a very rough and difficult time for the nation itself.

The conditions prevailing in the land are just about the same

as they were in our previous study. And that is, they're still filled with idolatry and immorality. And they've got complacent attitudes toward the Lord Himself.

Now when we come to this particular study, and we get a chance to look at the life of guys like Samson, one of the things we need to remember is, don't form preconceived ideas, okay? Just because we've read the rest of the story doesn't mean that we need to focus on the things that are going to happen.

Let's give him a chance to speak. Let's see him as he really is and then watch and see how all of this develops without formulating these opinions ahead of time.

Really all we're going to get to see is basically from age 19 to 39. We're going to get about twenty years out of his life in this story. We'll see his birth and then in the last verse we're going to skip over all of those years between then and about 19 or 20.

Now as we come to this study we're going to find that Samson is a person in whose life there is no rest, there is no peace. He's the one judge who doesn't do the job. He does not accomplish the liberation of the people from the Philistines.

Now there's one thing about him that is a key for his lack of success. This is going to be a tad bit convicting. The big problem with Samson is he was **UNDISCIPLINED**.

Before anyone can ever be an effective leader they have to

learn what discipline means. He's undisciplined and so he's unmotivated. Because he's undisciplined and unmotivated, he never knows the joy of what it is to be spiritual.

We never meet an undisciplined, spiritual person. The Spirit of God produces self-control. And by the level of discipline we can also determine the level of spirituality, if they have a heart for God.

If we're undisciplined we really haven't had time today to be in the Word. We've been too busy. We slept until the last minute, got up, hit the freeway before we got awake, and we haven't had time since then to be with the Lord. That's the undisciplined quality. That produces shallowness spiritually.

Because Samson is that way, he's the perfect playboy. There's no other guy in the scripture that fulfils the qualification. He couldn't care less about respect, responsibility, permanent relationships and religion.

He's the ideal hippie. Unmotivated, undisciplined.

But, if he walked in that front door right now we'd like him. He'd be the neatest guy we've met. And we'd all want to go up and meet him. You know why? Because he's a happy SANGUINE.

What's a happy sanguine? A happy sanguine is a person who has a certain amount of charisma about them. A happy sanguine is a person who has lots of friends.

If we find a person with a sanguine temperament, we always put them in the department of public relations. A good sanguine in the New Testament is Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He always had people around him. Always bringing people to Jesus. Kids really liked him because they could relate to him.

The sanguine is the perfect politician, excellent salesman, and good evangelist. A sanguine is generous and compassionate. There's no problem with him. He's very talkative. Usually his mouth arrives before he does and he's got lots to say.

On the negative side of the sanguine we have the undisciplined, weak-willed, restless, disorganized, unproductive, undependable, obnoxious, loud, egocentric type. And the sanguine also has a tendency to exaggerate.

Exaggeration is just part of the story. But underneath all of that is fear and insecurity.

Somebody said he can sell refrigerators to Eskimos, crutches to a guy that isn't crippled. He's always the guy that is asked to be the emcee at the banquet because he's always got a quick wit and something to say and everybody enjoys listening to him. And in the religious realm, he's a super evangelist. That's the kind of guy we've got before us.

Now that we've met him and we've put a little flesh on his bones, let's get the study started, the stage for the whole

drama that's going to be played out the next several episodes.

Judges 13 and verse 1.

v. 1 Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, so that the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.

“Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, so that the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.”

You'd think that by the seventh time they'd get the message that when they do “evil in the sight of the Lord” they're going into slavery. But boy, we're slow learners, aren't we?

They're back in the same position they were when this whole thing started.

They “did evil in the sight of the Lord,” the Philistines are one up on them.

v. 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 had borne no children.

“And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had borne no children.”

Alright those are just particulars. Remember Gideon? He's from the city of Ophrah, tribe of Manasseh, family of Abiezer.

Alright, look at Samson. Samson's dad's name is Manoah. They live in the city of Zorah. And that city is among the tribe of the Danites, the tribe of Dan.

Now we've got a problem. Mrs. Manoah is barren. She's not been able to have children. Are there any other women in the Bible who have not been able to have children? There are at least a few.

SARAH was unable to have children. The Lord said she was going to have a child. Twenty-five years later that was fulfilled.

HANNAH asked for a child and Samuel was born.

The WIFE AT SHUNEM that Elisha had met, she invited him in oftentimes for meals on his way from Carmel back to Samaria. He asked for requests. He asked her what she'd like and Ghazi the servant said she's been barren and has never been able to have a child and her husband is old. She too, through sovereign intervention, is given a child.

ELIZABETH was given a child—John the Baptist.

MARY is given a child—Jesus Christ.

And now Mrs. Manoah is going to have a child named

Samson.

Now why'd this say that? Because there's so many guys walking around today that think of the impossibility of the virgin birth of Christ. When we make fun of one thing like that, we've also got to discount all the rest of these.

What's more difficult for the Lord? A woman who can't have children and give her children? Or take the woman who has all the equipment and make it possible to have a child without a husband?

It's ridiculous when you get right down to the picky details of things, and yet that's the way the critics operate. Where do you end when you start doubting and questioning absolute divine authority?

v. 3 Then the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman, and said to her, "Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son."

"Then the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman, and said to her, 'Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son.'"

Underline "Behold now" and "you shall."

When the Lord looks at us and we come to Him, He says, "Now you're like this but you shall be like this when I get

through!”

“Soon you shall be like Him for you shall see Him as He is.”
(ref. 1 John 3:2) That’s how it works in our life.

Sure we’re a sinner now and living in a worldly environment, saved by grace. We are this but we shall be there. God always points to the beauty of the future.

Where is he? Down in the winepress beating out some grain, scared to death that a Midianite is going to come along and eat everything that he has.

“You are like this, but you shall be like this!”

“Peter, you’re like this, but you shall be like this.”

Here He’s speaking now and He said, “You know, this is where you are. You’re barren, you’ve borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son.”

v. 4 “Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing.

“Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing.”

And all the Lord’s children say, “Amen. I don’t drink anything like that.”

v. 5 “For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”

“For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”

There’s a reason for not drinking strong drink. There’s a reason for not getting a haircut. And that is, he’s going to be a Nazarite—not a Nazarene, like Jesus from Nazareth. No, he’s going to be a Nazarite.

In Numbers 6 there was the Nazarite vow. This was taken by a person who was set apart for the Lord’s usage.

There are two other Nazarites in scripture—Samuel, born miraculously to Hannah and John the Baptist, born miraculously to Elizabeth. And during the time of their lives they function separated, holy unto the Lord with specific purposes.

The reason that she’s not supposed to do this is because her son’s going to be special. He’s going to be set apart for a very special mission in life.

And so the Lord says, “Be sure you don’t do these things

because he's going to be a Nazarite."

In order to quickly summarize Numbers 6, let's look at the four parts of the Nazarite vow:

1. If someone is a Nazarite, they separate themselves from wine and strong drink.
2. All the days of the separation they don't let a razor come on their head. They don't get a haircut.
3. All the days of their separation they're not to come in contact with a dead body.
4. Then in all the days of the separation they're to be holy set apart to the Lord.

So those are the four things:

1. Separate from wine and strong drink—the fruit of the vine.
2. No razor shall come upon their head.
3. They shall not come in contact with the dead.
4. They shall be separated holy unto the Lord.

We're going to watch in the next several episodes the deterioration of that vow. We're going to watch how we come

to the end of all of this and why Samson leaves the Lord with no alternative but judgment when we come right down to the end of it.

Now notice what it says about Samson:

“you shall conceive and give birth to a son,”—and these things will happen—“and he shall begin”—underline that—“to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”

Our failure is not a surprise to the Lord. He knows just how far we’re going to go in our life for Him. He knows already that Samson’s not going to be a finisher. He’s just going to begin. And He knows that.

And so He says it very specifically, “he shall begin.” But he won’t finish.

Our failures never catch the Lord by surprise. He knows all about it, still He loves us unconditionally, chooses us to be His own, but He is not surprised by our failure. He’ll only begin this—he’s a beginner.

Are we like that? At the start of the new year we’re like a house on fire, we’re going to read our Bible through. Now we’re seventy-six chapters behind already.

Great beginners but not finishers! Start out with a bang and end up with a fizzle.

Just like the church of Sardis in Revelation we read, “The Lord says I’ve got this against you. You’re great starters but you never finish anything.” (see Revelation 3)

We’re like that! We go to some meeting and we get all excited about the Lord and the next week we’re back the same way we started.

We haven’t changed a bit! In fact, we just had a high, that’s all. And then BOOM! down we go.

The Lord’s saying, “Hey man, how about putting some action where your mouth is, you know? Let’s get on with it! Let’s finish something once.”

Paul says that to the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 8: “Y’all planned a year ago to take an offering. Why don’t y’all get with it. You got the ball rolling enthusiastically, now finish what you started.”

And one of the greatest things we can do seriously is to be finishers.

Galatians 5:7

You were running well. Who cut in on you that you should not obey the truth?

The Galatians once were really getting after it, but something happened and they began to flounder and to flail and so the

Lord had to say, “you were running well.”

Now he’s only going to be a beginner. Want to see something neat? When a woman gets so excited about something like this, she adds and leaves out. And look at it. She could have saved herself and her husband a lot of frustration if she hadn’t done this. And a lot of the pain and the heartache they go through in the next several episodes is going to basically be right here.

That story is going to be a little different. We’re going to look at it from the parent’s point of view quite a bit.

Momma and papa Manohah get lost in the shuffle after Samson comes into the center of things. We need to see it from their point of view. There are so many parents of “Christian kids” who are really messing up and they don’t understand what happened. And we’re going to see that.

v. 6 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, “A man of God came to me and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. And I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name.

“Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, ‘A man of God came to me and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. And I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name.’”

“I was so excited I forgot to ask him his address and I don’t know what his name is! But he told me something—verse 7:

v. 7 “But he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and now you shall not drink wine or strong drink nor eat any unclean thing, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’”

“But he said to me, “Behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and now you shall not drink wine or strong drink nor eat any unclean thing, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.””

Wow! Isn’t that something? What’s wrong with that?

First of all, she leaves out the thing that is very self-condemning and that is “you have been barren.” She doesn’t want her husband to know that she’s the one responsible for them not being able to have kids.

We do that all the time. There are parts of the Bible we just don’t like to read because it stomps all over our feet. So we read the comfortable parts and we pretend that the convicting parts aren’t there.

She leaves that out. She just says, “Guess what?! I’m going to have a son!” And then notice she adds something.

“[He] shall be a Nazirite...from the womb to the day of his”—

WHAT?—"death."

And that's not true. Did she want that? You better believe she wanted it. Would we want it if we were going to have a son, that he'd be a super great, holy, spiritual giant, shake the world, go to glory on a chariot of fire? Oh man we'd love it!

What has she done to her husband? She has given him a false impression that this kid, when he is born, is just going to be like no other kid and he's going to go all the way through his life faithful, being used by God. He'll be a Nazirite from the day of the birth until "the day of his death."

Poor daddy Manoah is going to have a rough time when Samson gets a big head and wants to go to Timnah to marry.

That poor guy, he's going to be questioning what God said here through this woman, and he'll be heartbroken. Now some of our biggest problems, as Christian brothers and sisters, is making the Word of God say something that it's not saying.

And when we change it around so it fits into our desires and with our experiences and our emotion and the Word doesn't say that, we can't claim that and pretend that God's going to just do that for us. It just doesn't work that way.

And they'd have saved a lot of heartbreak if she'd have come back and left everything just like it was. But isn't that the way we add and we make assumptions? Just so quickly.

And it's very, very heartbreaking. Eve did the same thing in the garden. When the serpent confronted her about that tree, "Oh we won't even touch it lest we die." It was a bad scene all the way around.

We find the same thing true in so many people today who are having experiences. And they come to the scripture to try to authenticate the experience with divine truth. They're coming at it in the wrong way.

During a discussion with someone, they said, "I don't care what the Word of God says. I've had this experience."

That is scary. They are trying to make the Word of God say something to verify and sin. And we will be a lot happier and a lot more fulfilled if we don't make assumptions, additions and subtractions from the Word of God. We just take it like it is and live in accordance with it.

v. 8 Then Manoah entreated the Lord and said, "O Lord, please let the man of God whom Thou hast sent come to us again that he may teach us what to do for the boy who is to be born."

"Then Manoah"

Listen, he is as near to Abraham as far as faith is concerned than anybody we've seen.

Remember Gideon who had such a rough time to just believe

in God? Finally he says, “Well rise, the Lord’s given Midian into our hands.” That was his first statement of faith and we went through three studies.

“Then Manoah entreated the Lord and said, ‘O Lord,’—he’s in fellowship with the Lord here—“please let the man of God whom Thou hast sent come to us again that he may teach us what to do for the boy who is to be born.”

Look at that! He has no question! He says, “Lord, my wife comes to me with some pretty exciting news. We don’t have any children, but we’re going to have a son. And Lord, would You please come back and just tell us how to take care of him? How to handle this person who is a gift from Your hand for us?”

v. 9 And God listened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again to the woman as she was sitting in the field, but Manoah her husband was not with her.

“And God listened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again to the woman as she was sitting in the field, but Manoah her husband was not with her.”

John 16:24

Hitherto have you asked nothing in my name. Ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Look at how quickly the Lord is to respond to the believing prayer of papa Manoah here.

v. 10 So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, “Behold, the man who came the other day has appeared to me.”

“So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, ‘Behold, the man who came the other day has appeared to me.’”

v. 11 Then Manoah arose and followed his wife, and when he came to the man he said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to the woman?” And he said, “I am.”

“Then Manoah arose and followed his wife, and when he came to the man he said to him, ‘Are you the man who spoke to the woman?’ And he said, ‘I am.’”

v. 12 And Manoah said, “Now when your words come to pass, what shall be the boy’s mode of life and his vocation?”

“And Manoah said, ‘Now when your words come to pass, what shall be the boy’s mode of life and his vocation?’”

Look at that faith!

“Lord, we aren’t questioning the fact that this is going to happen. Lord when it all takes place, just tells us the boy’s

mode of life and his vocation.”

What’s he going to do? What kind of lifestyle is he going to have?

Verse 13 is great!

v. 13 So the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Let the woman pay attention to all that I said.

“So the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, ‘Let the woman pay attention to all that I said.’”

Are we the basis of assumptions and additions? The Lord just puts it right where it is.

“Just let her pay attention to all that I said.” And then he outlines it briefly in verse 14.

v. 14 “She should not eat anything that comes from the vine nor drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing; let her observe all that I commanded.”

“She should not eat anything that comes from the vine nor drink wine or strong drink,”—the fruit of the vine—“nor eat any unclean thing; let her observe all that I have commanded.”

Submission and obedience leads to blessing.

“Let her see to it that she does all that I command.”

**v. 15 Then Manoah said to the angel of the Lord,
“Please let us detain you so that we may prepare a
kid for you.”**

“Then Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, ‘Please let us detain you so that we may prepare a kid for you.’”—that’s a goat.

**v. 16 And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah,
“Though you detain me, I will not eat your food, but
if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the
Lord.” For Manoah did not know that he was the
angel of the Lord.**

“And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, ‘Though you detain me, I will not eat your food, but if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the Lord.’ For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the Lord.”

Whenever we see that term “the angel of the Lord” it refers to Christ before He took on a human body.

In the Old Testament the angel of the Lord visited Abraham, along with a couple of other visitors in Genesis 18. That is the angel of the Lord. That is Christ before He took on a human body and came into the world.

This is the pre-incarnate or pre-fleshly Christ who's speaking here. And we'll see why in just a second.

v. 17 And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “What is your name, so that when your words come to pass, we may honor you?”

“And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, ‘What is your name, so that when your words come to pass, we may honor you?’”

There's his faith again.

v. 18 But the angel of the Lord said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?”

“But the angel of the Lord said to him, ‘Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?’”

What does Isaiah 9:6 say?

Isaiah 9:6

His name shall be called wonderful Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.

Who's that? The promised Son, isn't it? The Lord Jesus Christ.

Why is His name “wonderful”?

Because everybody that knows Him uses that name. He just gets better and better and better. He's wonderful.

Remember Jacob when he was wrestling with the angel at Peniel he said, "What is your name?" And the angel did not give him the name but blessed him right there.

Here at this point the angel does say, "seeing it is wonderful."

The more we get to know Him, the more He fulfils His name. Really when we get right down to it, He is wonderful.

v. 19 So Manoah took the kid with the grain offering and offered it on the rock to the Lord, and He performed wonders while Manoah and his wife looked on.

"So Manoah took the kid with the grain offering and offered it on the rock to the Lord, and He performed wonders while Manoah and his wife looked on."

What are the wonders? Well, it doesn't tell us, so sorry. We're just going to have to wait and check in. Maybe He took some water out of a rock like He did in the wilderness. Maybe He rained a little manna out of heaven to go with the meat. We never can tell what took place.

But He did something to manifest to them that He was a divine, supreme being.

v. 20 For it came about when the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, that the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground.

“For it came about when the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, that the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground.”

v. 21 Now the angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah or his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the Lord.

“Now the angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah or his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the Lord.”

v. 22 So Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, for we have seen God.”

“So Manoah said to his wife, ‘We shall surely die, for we have seen God.’”

There’s the principle:

He rightly relates to the anxious moment by recalling the promises.

And a lot of times we're called to remember what we know. Sometimes it's our greatest defense.

Look what she says. She says basically **THREE THINGS** to him there:

v. 23 But his wife said to him, “If the Lord had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have showed us all these things, nor would He have let us hear things like this at this time.”

“But his wife said to him, ‘If the Lord had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted’—there’s the first one—“a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have showed”—there’s the second one—“us all these things, nor would He have let us hear things like this at this time.”

Sometimes we're so short-sided we get scared to death when some circumstance comes into our lives that's unexpected. And the great thing we can do is just like Mrs. Manoah—now just stop and think about it.

“He wouldn't have said this, He wouldn't have showed us that, He wouldn't have accepted our offering if He was planning on killing us! And besides, He just told us we're going to have a son! So Papa Manoah, straighten up. Quit being so scared about all that.”

v. 24 Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and the Lord blessed him.

“Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and the Lord blessed him.”

The name Samson means “sunny.” He is a happy, jolly, jovial, genial, good-natured, full of fun, ready to play practical jokes, giddy, sunny of a man. He’s a neat guy.

It says “the child grew up and the Lord blessed him.”

As he grew during these years, he was faithful to be obedient to the Nazirite vow. And the result of obedience is blessing!

Joshua 1:8

The book will not be pried out of your mouth but as you meditate in it day and night, you’re careful to obey all that is written therein.

Obedience brings blessing.

Samson was probably on the high school weight lifting team. He probably won a gold medal in his senior year. And if the truth were known, he probably still holds the world record, especially after he picked up the gate that must have weighed a tremendous amount. He is a strong, strong man.

We can compare it to Jesus Christ:

Luke 2:52

Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Because of specific obedience he's being prepared as an instrument to be used.

v. 25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

“And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.”

How does the Spirit of the Lord stir us?

In FOUR WAYS:

1. by PEOPLE,
2. through CIRCUMSTANCES,
3. by PRESSURE, and
4. by OPPORTUNITY.

The Spirit of God stirs us through His people, circumstances, pressures and opportunities.

Pulsating within this young man, filled with fantastic possibility, is the pulsating power of the Spirit of God, ready to use him now to liberate His people from the Philistines.

Well just pretend that that's where the story ends. Because we'll see some other things begin to take place as the other episodes unfold.

Now let's take a few moments to reflect on the lessons.

Lesson #1: Sin for the seventh time leads the nation into bondage.

James tells us what happens when a man sins, and what sin accomplishes. (see James 1:13-15)

Lesson #2: What the Lord promises He's faithful to fulfill.

We can count on it. He told Mr. and Mrs. Manoah that they were going to have a child. And guess what? They did.

Lesson #3: Obedience leads to blessing, prosperity and usefulness by God the Father.

Lesson #4: The Lord knows the end of our lives as well as the beginning, for He says of Samson he shall only begin.

He's the one judge who failed to bring about the liberation from the Philistines.

Lesson #5: The failure of Samson then is not a surprise to the Lord.

Lesson #6: The wife makes a wrong assumption when she reports to her husband that Samson is going to be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death. This is not what the Lord said.

Lesson #7: Manoah expresses faith in the promises of God.

And like Abraham, “He staggered not at the promises of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, believing God. That what He had promised He was able also to perform.” (Romans 4:21, 22)

Lesson #8: How quick the Lord is to answer believing prayer.

He just calls and asks the Lord to come the second time to reveal things further and that's what takes place so quickly.

Lesson #9: “Let the woman pay attention to all that I said.”

At the marriage, wedding in Cana of Galilee we hear Mary saying to the servants, “Whatever He says to you do it.” (see John 2:5) That's a safe place to be—Obedience—“Whatever He says to you do it.”

Here we see, “Let the woman pay attention to all that I have said.”

Lesson #10: His name is “wonderful.” That is the experience of everyone who has come to know Jesus Christ by personal experience.

Lesson #11: The woman rightly relates by recalling the promises.

Lesson #12: Why did the Lord bless Samson? Because he was obedient to the parts of the Nazirite vow.

Lesson #13: Samson only began, but never finished.

Lesson #14: That statement: “You are” but “you shall be.” That refers to all humanity.

We are dead in trespasses and sin if we’re not a Christian. But we shall be made alive through acknowledgment of sin and receiving Jesus Christ as Savior by faith.

You are dead, you shall be made alive.

If we are a Christian, ineffective, but we shall be effective.

“Soon you shall be like Him for you shall see Him as He is.”
(ref. 1 John 3:2)

Think about this verse for our next study:

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he shall not depart from it.

What happened to Samson? He had everything going for him, he's blessed by the Lord, he's got godly parents. But what in the world happened to him?

How can all of this happen and is it in fact a violation of that principle written in the Bible? Do we have a scriptural example of that principle not working well?

We need to consider the painful process of these parents witnessing the deterioration of a young man filled with fantastic potential. What happens because of his persistence and continuous disregard of what God had asked him to do.

See the gradual power of sin begin to take over in his life. And the tragic end of the whole story.

Father, we pray that if there is someone who is struggling with eternal issues, who does not know the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that they'll come to know Him. That this very moment will be their spiritual birthday. And then dear Lord for those who do know You and with confidence they can face eternity because they've come to know Christ as Savior, we pray that the word that You now say to them through the Word will instantaneously be accepted and applied, appropriated and become practical to their daily life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

What You Need to Know About GIDEON & SAMSON:

“The Dangers of Losing the Final Lap”

Study Number Five – Judges 13:1-25

NOTES

v. 1 Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, so that the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.

v. 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 had borne no children.

v. 3 Then the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman, and said to her, “Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son.

v. 4 “Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing.

v. 5 “For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”

v. 6 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, “A man of God came to me and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. And I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name.

v. 7 “But he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and now you shall not drink wine or strong drink nor eat any unclean thing, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’”

v. 8 Then Manoah entreated the Lord and said, “O Lord, please let the man of God whom Thou hast sent come to us again that he may teach us what to do for the boy who is to be born.”

v. 9 And God listened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again to the woman as she was sitting in the field, but Manoah her husband was not with her.

v. 10 So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, “Behold, the man who came the other day has appeared to me.”

NOTES

v. 11 Then Manoah arose and followed his wife, and when he came to the man he said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to the woman?” And he said, “I am.”

v. 12 And Manoah said, “Now when your words come to pass, what shall be the boy’s mode of life and his vocation?”

v. 13 So the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Let the woman pay attention to all that I said.

v. 14 “She should not eat anything that comes from the vine nor drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing; let her observe all that I commanded.”

v. 15 Then Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “Please let us detain you so that we may prepare a kid for you.”

v. 16 And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Though you detain me, I will not eat your food, but if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the Lord.” For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the Lord.

v. 17 And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “What is your name, so that when your words come to pass, we may honor you?”

v. 18 But the angel of the Lord said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?”

v. 19 So Manoah took the kid with the grain offering and offered it on the rock to the Lord, and He performed wonders while Manoah and his wife looked on.

v. 20 For it came about when the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, that the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar. When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground.

v. 21 Now the angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah or his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the Lord.

v. 22 So Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, for we have seen God.”

v. 23 But his wife said to him, “If the Lord had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have showed us all these things, nor would He have let us hear things like this at this time.”

v. 24 Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and the Lord blessed him.

v. 25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Judges 13:1-25 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Describe the message of the Lord in verses 3-5 and define a Nazirite.

3. How does the woman respond, according to verse 6?

4. What is Manoah's request, according to verse 8?

5. What is Manoah's question in verse 17, and the angel of the Lord's question in verse 18?

6. What happens in verses 19 & 20?

7. How do Manoah and his wife respond to this revelation in verses 22 & 23?

8. What transpires in verse 24?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Sin for the seventh time leads the nation Israel into bondage to a foreign power.

James 1:13-15

Let no one say when is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God.' For God cannot be tempted by evil and He Himself does not tempt anyone, but each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

LESSON #2: We see again in this account that what the Lord promises He is faithful to fulfill.

LESSON #3: Obedience leads to blessing, prosperity and usefulness by God the Father.

LESSON #4: The Lord knows the end of our lives as well as the beginning, for He says that when Samson is born, He shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.

LESSON #5: The failure of Samson is not a surprise to the Lord.

LESSON #6: The wife makes a wrong assumption when she reports to her husband that Samson is going to be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

LESSON #7: Manoah expresses his faith in the promise from the very beginning.

LESSON #8: How quick the Lord is to answer the believing prayer of Manoah in coming a second time to instruct them on their conduct in relation to the promise.

LESSON #9: As the angel of the Lord spoke to Manoah, may his words be embellished upon our hearts.

LESSON #10: His name is “wonderful.” This is the experience of everyone who has come to know Jesus Christ by personal experience.

LESSON #11: The wife properly relates to the circumstances of the flame at the altar and the disappearance of the angel of the Lord by recalling the promises He has already given.

LESSON #12: The Lord blessed Samson as he was obedient and faithful to fulfill the responsibilities that had been given to him in the Nazarite vow.

LESSON #13: Samson only began but never finished.

LESSON #14: “You are” – “You shall be.”

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Copyright © 2025 by Bible Teaching Resources by Don Anderson Ministries. The author's teacher notes incorporate quoted, paraphrased and summarized material from a variety of sources, all of which have been appropriately credited to the best of our ability. Quotations particularly reside within the realm of fair use. It is the nature of teacher notes to contain references that may prove difficult to accurately attribute. Any use of material without proper citation is unintentional. Teacher notes have been compiled by Genevieve Martin.