

# Chosen

Judges 13:1-3, 9-11,20

## Sermon Outline

### A. The Call (vs. 1-3):

1. Did evil - Israel again purposefully decided to energetically forsake the standards of God. They developed a very negative attitude towards them and lived unethically and immorally. They had little or no attitude for obeying God's Word.
  - a) The depths of Israelite apostasy and the greatness of Philistine strength were causes for the unprecedented length of oppression—40 years—though the Philistines continued as a threat until the early years of David's reign (cf. 2 Sam. 5:17-25).
  - b) Israel's monotonous downward spiral climaxed with the seventh recorded apostasy in the Book of Judges (cf. 3:5-7, 12-14; 4:1-3; 6:1-2; 8:33-35; 10:6-9). This apostasy appears to have been a phase of the idolatrous worship previously described in 10:6 (which included "the gods of the Philistines"), because a resulting oppression by the Philistines (in the west) is mentioned in 10:7 to complement that by the Ammonites (in the east).<sup>1[1]</sup>
2. In sight of the Lord – It is not like the Israelites were not conscious of the presence of the Lord when they functioned with a negative attitude in reference to His Word. They clearly understood that the Lord has tenderly cared for them and establish them in the Promise Land supernaturally, but still purposefully did what was right in their own eyes (Judges 21:25).
3. In sight of the Lord – Israel knew that the Lord had all power and authority to judge them and truly desired to have a good relationship with them, but they still lived unintimate when disobeying His will. They did this knowing that the reason they were under the Philistines abusive power is because the Lord was holding them accountable, yet they still did what was right in their own eyes. This is called abstinent sin.
4. The Lord gave them into the hands – The Lord, because of their attitude towards Him, put them under the power and authority of the Philistines. This is a decision the Lord

---

cf. *confer*, compare

<sup>1[1]</sup>Walvoord, John F.; Zuck, Roy B. ; Dallas Theological Seminary: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983-c1985, S. 1:403

made by not resisting the Philistine's desire to come and possess the land of Israel. This was going to take place endlessly.

5. There was a man – In midst of a stubborn people, the Lord knew of a man that truly walked with Him and revered Him (13:9-23, especially verse 20).
  - a) Samson's parents were from the clan of the Danites, perhaps implying that the bulk of the tribe of Dan had already made the move northward to the Huleh Valley (cf. chap. 18), so that only a clan or two remained in their original tribal inheritance. The childless wife of Manoah of Zorah was visited by the Angel of the LORD. Zorah, the highest point in the Shephelah, was on a high ridge north of the Sorek Valley and about 14 miles west of Jerusalem.
6. Had borne no children – Verb, Qal, 3<sup>rd</sup> person, feminine, singular+qatal (perfect), active, suffixed (perfect) – His wife was completely incapable of having children.
  - a) We have every reason to believe the "angel of the Lord" who visited Manoah's wife was Jesus Christ, the Son of God (see Gen 22:1-18; 31:11-13; Ex 3:1-6; Judg 6:11-24). Like Sarah (Gen 18:9-15), Hannah (1 Sam 1), and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25), Manoah's wife was barren and never expected to have a child. Since it would be the mother who would have the greatest influence on the child, both before and after birth, the angel solemnly charged her with what to do. (from The Bible Exposition Commentary: Old Testament © 2001-2004 by Warren W. Wiersbe. All rights reserved.)
7. Had borne no children – For women who remain barren it does not mean they did something wrong. God just has a different plan for their life (Priscilla and Aquilla, Dorcas, Debra).
8. The angel of the Lord:
  - a) The Angel of the Lord performed actions associated with God, such as revelation, deliverance, and destruction; but he can be spoken of as distinct from God (2 Sam 24:16; Zach 1:12). This special relationship is a mystery similar to that between Jesus and God in the New Testament. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c)1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)
  - b) "Angel of the Lord" is sometimes distinguished from God yet identified with Him.

9. Appeared to the woman – The angel of the Lord did not come and endlessly inspect Manoah. The angel of the Lord endlessly inspected the condition of Manoah’s wife and came to a complete understanding of her inability to have children.
  - a) Godly parents (13:1–24). Manoah and his wife displayed qualities of true godly parents. They believed the promise of a son. They asked God, “teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born” (v. 8). Yet Samson was far from the godly, dedicated person we might expect to come from such a home. In a way, this story is a blessing for all godly parents whose children disappoint. We can do our best, and even do everything “right,” and still see our children make wrong choices.<sup>2[2]</sup>
10. Said to her – The angel of the Lord continuously verbalized what He was saying to ensure that Manoah’s wife clearly understood Him.
11. Behold now – The angel of the Lord focused on a specific message that He wanted to emphasize and give special attention to.
12. You have borne no children – The angel of the Lord said this to establish that God was in control of her womb; this is why when no one else may have known, He can specify without asking her.
13. You have borne no children – A couple may decide to have a child but God chooses who He wants to be a mother. You are in a special place even if you think it is an accident (Psalm 127:3).
14. You will conceive and give birth - God will open her womb whenever He chooses
15. Listened; Heard – The angel of the Lord continuously provided to Manoah His undivided attention and developed a full knowledge of what Manoah was requesting.
16. Listened; Heard – It is interesting that the angel of the Lord did not explain to Manoah what to do with Samson. He had already stated what was to take place to His wife (5-9). The birth process was clearly something that the wife needed to be careful to fulfill.
17. Came again – The angel appeared purposefully to make every effort to continuously come and interact with Manoah’s wife when describing the conception and the pregnancy.

---

<sup>2[2]</sup> Richards, Lawrence O.: *The Bible Readers Companion*. electronic ed. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1991; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996, S. 168

18. Sitting in the field; Abide – Manoah’s wife was in the fields as if she was going to remain there. It seems like the entire incident caused her to spend some alone time. It led to a second visit from the angel of the Lord.
19. Manoah was not there – Manoah’s absence is distinctive.
20. Hurry – As a true woman of God she urgently and with much enthusiasm, rushed to find her husband.
21. Told her husband – Manoah’s wife relayed to her husband the message she received from the angel of the Lord.
  - a) Acting in the true spirit of a loving and trustful wife; showing that she felt that neither angel nor man of God stood before her own husband in the claim of her confidence and obedience.<sup>3[3]</sup>
22. Behold the man who came – There was a specific message that she needed to gain her husband’s attention to vividly communicate to him. The message was given to her by the same “man” who keeps coming to her while she is alone.
23. Appeared to me – Again, the angel of the Lord did not come and endlessly inspect Manoah. The angel of the Lord is completely committed to executing Israel’s deliverance by way of Manoah’s wife conceiving Samson.
24. Arose; To establish – Manoah responded to his wife’s message immediately with a firm commitment to go where the angel of the Lord was located.
25. Followed his wife – Manoah’s only focus was to walk behind his wife as she goes to the place where the angel of the Lord was located.
26. When he came – Manoah was very determined to hear what the angel of the Lord said to his wife, so he kept following his wife with no intentions of stopping until he got to the place where the angel of the Lord was.
27. He said to him - Manoah immediately engaged a conversation with the angel of the Lord.
28. Spoke; Speaking – Manoah wanted to know if the angel of the Lord relayed the circumstances that his wife was going to experience.

---

<sup>3[3]</sup> Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Ed.). (1909). [Judges](#) (p. 138). London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

29. The angel of the Lord said – This time the angel of the Lord spoke to Manoah.
- a) The angel of the Lord then repeated the instructions which he had already given to the woman in v. 4, simply adding to the prohibition of wine and strong drink, the caution not to eat of anything that came from the vine, in accordance with Num. 6:3.<sup>4[4]</sup>
30. Pay attention – Angel of the Lord told Manoah to allow his wife to continuously preserve in her heart all that was said. She needs to never forget it and be ready for it to take place. Since she is carrying Samson and he is a Nazarite she needs to fulfill what is required by the law.
- a) Samson’s parents were very receptive, respectful (13:17), and obedient (13:4-5, 15-19) of the angel of the Lord.
31. All that I said – Everything that the angel of the Lord communicated needs to be remembered and obeyed.
- a) Samson was born with a purpose (13:2-5) and despite his ways (Judges 21:25) God still accomplished what he needed Samson to do.

## **B. Blessed (vs 20):**

1. For it came about; to be – “For it came about” represents something that is coming into existence- that is going to take place and can always be this way.
2. Went up – The flame going up means that the offering is being offered up for acceptance by the Lord God.
3. Ascended in a flame; Went up; Offering – The flame going up as the angel of the Lord is going up means this is an acceptable offering.

---

<sup>4[4]</sup> Keil, C. F., & Delitzsch, F. (1996). [\*Commentary on the Old Testament\*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 293). Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.

- a) The fact that the angel of the Lord comes back and then worships with the parents is clear evidence of God's view of them (12:3,6, 9, 13, 16, 18). With a heart like Samson had, it took parents like these to shape him to remain conscious of God.
4. They fell on their face to the ground – When Manoah and his wife saw God's acceptance of their offering, and the supernatural act of the angel of the Lord, they humbled themselves and worshipped God in awe.
5. They fell on their face to the ground – This is the model of raising a child because it all begins here (sincere, acceptable worship) and continues endlessly no matter how the child turns out.