



The Birth of Jesus and the Birth of Samson.

(Judges 13:1-25)

(2019)

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The Birth of Jesus and the Birth of Samson.

Topics.

- Manoah and his barren wife.
 - The birth to Samson.
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INTRODUCTION

The following story of Manoah and his barren wife and the birth of Samson who became a deliver to Israel has many similarities to the birth of Jesus by the Virgin Mary both involved miracles and angels and in both miracles the angel of the LORD went to the woman and not the man.

MANOAH AND HIS BARREN WIFE

- **Judges 13:1-3:** 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. ²And 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. ³And 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.

Some teach that God only works through the man, but this is not true, He will work through the primary person involved in the story or event, whether they are male or female. If the event surrounds war or authority then God will in most cases work through the man (there are always exceptions to the general rule), but if the event is motherhood or birth then God generally deals with the primary person involved, the woman. God came to Manoah's wife rather than Manoah himself because she was to be the primary person involved in the story. Likewise, the angel went to Mary rather than Joseph her betrothed husband to be, because Mary was the main character in the story (Joseph is not important to the story).

Whereas the LORD went Abraham even though Sarah his loved wife would be the one who was to give birth to the promised son Isaac. This is because in the story of Abraham and Sarah Abraham is the one the eternal promises and covenant were made to so he is the main character in the story not Sarah. Every Jewish woman desired to have children so much that it was considered a shame not to bare children. No Jewish wife would choose not to have children so the words, "Manoah's wife was barren," means that it was impossible for her to conceive children, until the angel of the LORD appeared to her and told her that she will conceive and bear a son.

- **Judges 13:4-5:** Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: ⁵For, 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.

Israel at this time has been under the power of the Philistines for forty-years (Judges 13:1). And now the angel of the LORD tells Manoah's wife that she will conceive in her womb a deliverer of Israel and give birth to a son.

Nazarite: means consecrated or separated and refers to a man or woman who voluntarily took a vow before the LORD (Num. 6:1-21). Jesus said, "I am Jesus of Nazareth" and was often called a Nazarene. When the title was used by Jesus friends it had a friendly meaning, but used by his enemies it was a title of scorn.

- **Judges 13:6-7:** 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: ⁷But 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.

Manoah's wife goes and tells her husband that a man of God whose countenance was like the countenance of an angel appeared to her and told her that she would conceive, and bear a son who will be a deliverer of Israel from the womb to the day of his death. How incredible is this and how similar is the experience of Manoah's wife to Mary and the birth of Jesus, both women feared when the angel of the LORD appeared to them and both births were miracles. In both cases the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and not the man and in both stories the angel told the mother everything concerning her son's future before the conception of the child. Added to this both Manoah's wife and Mary were told they would give birth to a son who would be a delivery of Israel from the womb to their death.

- **Judges 13:8-9:** Then Manoah intreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. ⁹And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her.

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the glorious faith of Manoah he In contrast to Mary's betrothed Joseph believed his wife and immediately prays that God will send the angel back so he can ask what he and his wife must do to raise the promised child who will be born a deliverer of Israel. For those who think only men are important in the plans of God consider this amazing truth. God heard Manoah's prayer, but instead of the angel of God going directly to Manoah the angel goes to his wife.

- **Judges 13:10-12:** And the woman made haste, and ran, and shewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day. ¹¹And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I am. ¹²And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?

Manoah's wife races, no-doubt with great excitement to get her husband and bring him to the angel that had appeared to her. Manoah sees his wife and most likely heard her calling so he runs to her and they go together back to where the angel had appeared. They see a man and asked him if he was the man that spoke to Manoah's wife, the man said he was and Manoah said, "Let the LORD'S words come to pass" and asked him how they should raise the promised son.

NOTICE: the angel of the LORD appeared with the appearance of a man, neither Manoah nor his wife knew whether he was an angel or a man. This shines a spotlight on the truth that even though angels are immortal and eternal they can appear in the form of humans.

Jesus himself said:

- In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. (Matt. 22:30).
- When they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven (Mark 12:25).

Mary the mother of Jesus was a godly faithful Jewish woman there is no-doubt she would have known this story of Manoah, his wife and the miracle birth of Samson and as she stood in awe and wonder before the LORD'S angel Gabriel asked similar questions to those that Manoah and his wife are asking the angel in this story.

- **Judges 13:15-16:** And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee. ¹⁶And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD. For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the LORD.

Manoah saw the angel of the LORD with his own eyes spoke with him and asked him questions and yet he did not know he was speaking and seeing the angel of the LORD. It would be right and proper to suppose from this that in the resurrection when the faithful are granted immortal, eternal glorified bodies they will still appear human.

- **Judges 13:21:** But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife.

In the same way that Gabriel came to Mary once and told her that she would miraculously conceive and give birth to a son who would be a Saviour of the world the angel of the LORD departs from Manoah and his wife after telling them all they need to know concerning Samson's birth and the LORD'S laws concerning his childhood and his growth. Neither Manoah and his wife nor Mary and Joseph saw the angel again.

THE BIRTH TO SAMSON

- **Judges 13:24-25:** And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. ²⁵And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

This chapter is the only mention of Manoah in Scripture except for his death in (Judges 16:31).

SUMMARY

The birth of Samson involved miracles and angels similar to Mary and the birth of Christ. The angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife on her own and tells her that she will conceive, and bear a son who will be a Nazarite meaning separated to God from the womb and that he will be a deliverer to Israel from the womb to his death. The woman goes and tells her husband he prays to the LORD asking, "How shall we raise the child?" God hears the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again to the woman, but Manoah was not with her. The angel spoke to Manoah's wife, she ran and told her husband all the angel had said, and then they both came to the angel to ask again, "How should they raise the child?" Manoah's barren wife by a miracle of the LORD gave birth to a son, she calls his name Samson, the child grew, and the LORD blessed him and the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him mightily to deliverer Israel from their enemies (there is no mention of Manoah going into his wife).