

“His Name is Wonderful”
Judges 13
(Preached at Trinity, June 28, 2015)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **Chapter 13** introduces one of the best known of the judges, Samson. Israel has continued her downward spiral into sin. They had been under the domination of the Philistines for forty years but there is no indication that they cried out for deliverance. They were content in their servitude. But God demonstrates His mercy in raising up a deliverer even when they were not seeking deliverance.
2. **Chapter 13** describes the announcement of the birth of Israel's deliverer. God sends forth His Angel to bear the good news to a childless couple, Manoah and his barren wife. **Judges 13:5 NAU** - "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."
3. After the announcement of Samson's birth in **Chapter 13** we leap forward in time and Samson has become a man seeking a bride.
Before we enter this period of Samson's life I want to pause to look at this Messenger who comes announcing the birth of Samson.
Judges 13:3 NAU - "Then the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman"
The title, "Angel of the LORD" appears eight times in this chapter.
4. We also saw this Angel of the LORD appearing to Gideon in **Chapter 6**.
Judges 6:12 NAU - "The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior."
5. I pointed out in **Chapter 6** the "Angel of the LORD" is most often a designation that refers not to one of the created angels but rather to a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ, a Christophany, or at least a theophany.
 - Andrew Fausett wrote: "The Angel of the LORD identifies himself with Jehovah in His words and deeds as no prophet does."
 - Arthur Cundall wrote: "The angel of the Lord is regularly used in the Old Testament to denote the manifestation of the Lord himself in a theophany."
 - The uniqueness of this heavenly visitor will be seen in Manoah's response
Judges 13:22 NAU - "We will surely die, for we have seen God."
6. God has come to reveal the birth of Samson. At first Manoah did not comprehend the appearance and asked Him his name. When he asked Him his name He replies,
Judges 13:18 NAU - "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"
7. Tonight, I want us to see two things in this passage.
 - I. The revelation of the Angel of the Lord
 - II. The response of Manoah and his wife
8. For us I trust we will stand in awe at our wonderful God.

I. The revelation of the Angel of the Lord

A. He appeared as a mere man—but more!

1. First of all, there is the idea of suddenness – the thought is there wasn't a place of origin. He didn't arrive. He appeared.
Verse 3 - "Then the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman"
2. His appearance was like a man but the woman instantly saw much more
Verse 6 - "A man of God came to me and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God"
3. What did they see? Was it the radiance of His divine splendor?
John 1:14 NAU - "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."
Hebrews 1:3 NAU - " And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high"
Revelation 1:13-16 NAU - "and in the middle of the lampstands / saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴ His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength."

B. He spoke with authority

Verse 13 - "Let the woman pay attention to all that I said."

1. Jesus spoke with Divine authority
Matthew 24:35 NAU - "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."
Matthew 28:18 NAU - " And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
2. His words must be heard and heeded.
Mark 8:38 NAU - "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

C. He revealed His name

1. The Hebrew word for name is שְׁמִי {shame} A Hebrew name defined the character or nature of the person
2. God's name is the essence of His being
Exodus 23:20-21 NAU - "Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. ²¹ "Be on your guard before him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will not pardon your transgression, since My name is in him."

3. The phrase “Name of the LORD” appears 105 times – it is synonymous with God
Proverbs 18:10 NAU - "The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe."
 Solomon declared:
2 Chronicles 2:4 NAU - "Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God,"
 4. This is why the Third Commandment means so much more than just using the name of God as a means of cursing – it is an insult to God Himself which God will never allow.
- B. The Angel of the Lord revealed the majesty of His name
Judges 13:17-18 NAU - " Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that when your words come *to pass*, we may honor you?"
¹⁸ But the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"
1. פֶּלִיאַ - (Peh-leh) – Wonderful. Isaiah used this word to describe the coming Christ
Isaiah 9:6 NAU - "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."
 2. This word can speak of something extraordinary, something wonderful or marvelous.
 - a. David used it to describe the nature of his friendship with Jonathan
2 Samuel 1:26 NAU - "I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me. Your love to me was more wonderful Than the love of women."
 - b. David also used it to describe the glorious nature of God’s works
Psalms 145:5 NAU - "On the glorious splendor of Your majesty And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate."
Psalms 139:14 NAU - " I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well."
 - c. Jesus is full of all majesty; He is all glorious
 The very thought of Him sent Paul into marvelous doxology
Romans 11:36 NAU - "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever."
 3. The word can also describe something hard to understand
 Christ is both wonderful and also a wonder
 - a. He fills us with awe and wonder – He is above our comprehension
 The **KJV** translates it “secret” - Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?"
NIV - "Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding."
Psalms 139:6 – “*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot *attain* unto it.”
Job 42:3 NAU - "Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?" "Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."

- b. His name is Secret, or Incomprehensible
LBC – 2:1 – “The Lord our God is but one only living and true God; whose subsistence is in and of Himself, infinite in being and perfection; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but Himself.”
- 4. Jesus Christ is wonderful, glorious, beyond comprehension
 - a. We marvel as we ponder Deity becoming flesh while still remaining fully divine.
 - b. We marvel at eternity dwelling in time
 - c. We marvel at His infinite love for us
Ephesians 3:19 NAU - " and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."

II. The response of Manoah and his wife

- A. The entire passage is cloaked with mystery and bewilderment regarding Manoah and his wife.
 - 1. The Angel of the LORD first appears to Manoah’s wife
She knew He was more than a man. When she described Him to Manoah she said he had the “appearance” of an angel of God.
 - 2. They remained confused regarding the identity of this messenger sent from God. They knew he was more than a man.
 - 3. Both Manoah and his wife responded in faith.
 - a. His wife showed her faith in her acceptance of the Angel’s word.
She came and told her husband as a matter of fact.
 - b. Manoah also believed. He prayed not for proof but to know how to raise this child whom God was about to raise up.
Judges 13:8 NAU - "O Lord, please let the man of God whom You have sent come to us again that he may teach us what to do for the boy who is to be born."
 - c. Look at the answer Manoah was given:
Verse 13 - "Let the woman pay attention to all that I said."
Verse 14 - "let her observe all that I commanded."
- B. Manoah’s wife described her experience as fearful
Judges 13:6 NAU - "his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome."
 - 1. The word for “awesome” is **יָרֵא** *yare* which refers to fear.
The KJV translates it “terrible.”
The word describes the proper way to approach God.
Psalms 47:2 NAU - "For the LORD Most High is to be feared, A great King over all the earth."
Rev. 1:17 - "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man"

2. They soon learned the identity of the Angel of the LORD. Upon offering up a sacrifice to God the Angel ascended in the flame
Judges 13:19-20 NAU - "So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering and offered it on the rock to the LORD, and He performed wonders while Manoah and his wife looked on. 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."
 3. The one who *IS* Wonderful *Does* wonders.
- C. There was no doubt in their mind that they had seen God. Manoah assumed he was about to be killed.
Judges 13:22 NAU - "So Manoah said to his wife, "We will surely die, for we have seen God."
1. Manoah was merely stating a Biblical axiom. God had told Moses:
Exodus 33:20 NAU - "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"
 2. Of course, many today would see such thinking as ancient superstition. Calm down Manoah, It will be OK. They simply see Manoah as lacking understanding. The truth is, Manoah understood all too well. God is not to be taken lightly. Manoah's heart was smitten with fear.
 Dale Ralph Davis wrote: "Where did we ever get the idea that the presence of God is not dangerous? Has God somehow become safe because we live in AD?"
- D. But Manoah's wife gives balance to the scene
Judges 13:23 NAU - "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 shown us all these things, nor would He have let us hear *things* like this at this time."
1. Her point was God is not a God who is transcendent to the point of having no contact with human beings. God allows His people to come into His presence.
 2. This is the balance for God's people. We enter into His courts with praise. We rejoice as we worship Him. Our hearts are filled with great joy as we sing forth His praises. But we must never cease to approach Him with holy reverence. We see this balance in Psalm 2
Psalms 2:11 NAU - "Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling."
Hebrews 12:28-29 NAU - "Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire."

Conclusion:

1. Our Lord truly is Wonderful. He is infinitely glorious and must be worshipped with holy reverence.
2. But He is also our wonderful Bridegroom who has come to redeem His beloved bride. Instead of consuming us with the Word of His power He bids us come. Mount Sinai quakes and thunders in the presence of God Almighty while at the same time Mount Zion bids us come in peace. The difference is the cross of Christ.