

# JUDGES 12:8-13:25

## SAMSON'S BIRTH



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## THE LAST OF THE MINOR JUDGES

Judges 12:8-10 *After him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel. 9 He had thirty sons, and thirty daughters he gave in marriage outside his clan, and thirty daughters he brought in from outside for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years. 10 Then Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem.*

- 60 children – implies multiple wives
- Judged Israel 7 years, then he died.

Judges 12:11-12 *After him Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel, and he judged Israel ten years. 12 Then Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried at Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.*

- Judged Israel 10 years, then he died.

Judges 12:13-15 *After him Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel. 14 He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on seventy donkeys, and he judged Israel eight years. 15 Then Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and was buried at Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.*

- 40 sons (daughters not listed) – implies multiple wives
- Judged Israel 8 years, then he died.

## BIRTH OF SAMSON

Judges 13:1 *And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.*

- No crying out/groaning
- Had become content to live under Philistine oppression
- Judges 15:9-12 *Then the Philistines came up and encamped in Judah and made a raid on Lehi. 10 And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" They said, "We have come up to bind Samson, to do to him as he did to us." 11 Then 3,000 men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then is this that you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so have I done to them." 12 And they said to him, "We have come down to bind you, that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines." ...*

## BIRTH OF SAMSON

Samson is the last and worst of the Judges

Best was Othniel

Othniel was raised up in a time of faithfulness:

- Judges 2:7 *And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel.*

Samson was raised up in a time of great apostasy:

- Judges 17:6 *In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.* (repeated in 21:25, the last verse in the book)

Judges 13:2 *There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children.*

- Judges 1:34 *The Amorites pressed the people of Dan back into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the plain.*

## BIRTH OF SAMSON

Judges 13:3-5 *And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. 4 Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, 5 for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."*

- The angel of YHWH – preincarnate Christ. Identified as YHWH and separate from YHWH (ex. Judges 2:1).
- Nazirite (Numbers 6:1-21):
  - Vow of being set apart for service to YHWH.
  - 3 prohibitions:
    - No wine, strong drink or any product of the vine.
    - No haircuts.
    - No going near a dead body.

## BIRTH OF SAMSON

*Judges 13:6-7 Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name, 7 but he said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.'"*

*Judges 13:8-12 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD and said, "O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born." 9 And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field. But Manoah her husband was not with her. 10 So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, "Behold, the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me." 11 And Manoah arose and went after his wife and came to the man and said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to this woman?" And he said, "I am." 12 And Manoah said, "Now when your words come true, what is to be the child's manner of life, and what is his mission?"*

## BIRTH OF SAMSON

Judges 13:13-14 *And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. 14 She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe."*

- Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

Judges 13:15 *Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain you and prepare a young goat for you."*

Judges 13:16 *And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "If you detain me, I will not eat of 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.)*

Judges 13:17 *And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?"*

## BIRTH OF SAMSON

Judges 13:18 *And the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"*

- Psalms 139:1-6 *O LORD, you have searched me and known me! 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.*
- Wonderful – incomprehensible, extraordinary, beyond us



## BIRTH OF SAMSON

*Judges 13:19-21 So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it on the rock to the LORD, to the one who works wonders, and Manoah and his wife were watching. 20 And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the LORD went up in the flame of the altar. Now Manoah and his wife were watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground. 21 The angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD.*

- Fell on their faces to the ground – Joshua (5:14), Ezekiel (44:4), Wise men with Jesus (Matt. 2:1), angels (Rev. 7), 24 elders (Rev. 11).

## BIRTH OF SAMSON

Judges 13:22 *And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, for we have seen God."*

- Exodus 33:19-20 *And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live."*
- 1 Timothy 6:16 *who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.*

## BIRTH OF SAMSON

Judges 13:23 *But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering at our hands, or shown us all these things, or now announced to us such things as these."*

- Judges 6:22 *Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face."*
- Judges 6:23 *But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die."*

Judges 13:24-25 *And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.*