

## Timeline of Truth: Samson, the Selfish Judge – The Birth of Samson (Judges 13:1-25)

Last \_\_\_\_\_ of Judges – Last \_\_\_\_\_ in Judges – \_\_\_\_\_ Judge in Judges

*More than any previous agent of deliverance, Samson demonstrates that the divinely chosen leaders were part of Israel's problem rather than a lasting solution. – Daniel Block*

<p><sup>1</sup> Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD,</p>	<p><b>1. Israel's Return to Evil – _____</b></p>
<p>and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.</p>	<p><b>2. God's Response – _____</b></p>
<p><sup>2</sup> Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children.</p>	<p><b>3. God Raises Up a Rescuer – _____</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. A man – Manoah, a Danite</i></li> <li><i>b. The man's wife</i></li> <li><i>c. The wife's circumstance</i></li> </ul>
<p><sup>3</sup> And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her,          "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.  <sup>4</sup> "Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or <i>similar</i> drink, and not to eat anything unclean.  <sup>5</sup> "For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."</p>	<p><b>4. God Sends a Messenger to the Wife</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. His statement of the present</i></li> <li><i>b. His promise</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. Conception</i></li> <li><i>ii. Birth of a son</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><i>c. His prohibitions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. No drinking wine or drink</i></li> <li><i>ii. No eating anything unclean</i></li> <li><i>iii. No razor on his head</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><i>d. His explanation (here, imposed, permanent)</i></li> <li><i>e. His prophecy of deliverance → begin...</i></li> </ul>
<p><sup>6</sup> So the woman came and told her husband, saying,          "A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name.  <sup>7</sup> "And He said to me,          `Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or <i>similar</i> drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death."</p>	<p><b>5. The Wife Tells Her Husband</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. About the messenger</i></li> <li><i>b. About his message (not her limits or razor)</i></li> </ul> 
<p><sup>8</sup> Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said,          "O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born."</p>	<p><b>6. Manoah's Prays to the LORD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Send him again</i></li> <li><i>b. To teach us what are to do</i></li> </ul>
<p><sup>9</sup> And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her.  <sup>10</sup> Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him,          "Look, the Man who came to me the <i>other</i> day has just now appeared to me!"</p>	<p><b>7. God Answers Manoah's Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. The angel appeared to the wife</i></li> <li><i>b. The wife runs and tells her husband</i></li> </ul>

<p><sup>11</sup> So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, "Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?" And He said, "I am." <sup>12</sup> Manoah said, "Now let Your words come <i>to pass!</i> What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?" <sup>13</sup> So the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the <b>woman</b> let her be careful. <sup>14</sup> "<b>She</b> may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may <b>she</b> drink wine or <i>similar</i> drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded <b>her</b> let her observe."</p>	<p><b>8. Manoah Returns with His Wife</b> <i>a. He questions the man concerning his identity</i> <i>b. The messenger affirms his identity</i> <i>c. He questions the man again</i> <i>d. The messenger repeats, focusing only on the wife...</i></p>
<p><sup>15</sup> Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You." <sup>16</sup> And the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD." (For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the LORD.)</p>	<p><b>9. Manoah Offers to Feed the Messenger</b> <i>a. Manoah: "Stay and eat goat"</i> <i>b. Messenger: "I will not eat"</i> <i>c. Messenger: "Offer to the LORD"</i></p>
<p><sup>17</sup> Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "What <i>is</i> Your name, that when Your words come <i>to pass</i> we may honor You?" <sup>18</sup> And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask My name, seeing it <i>is</i> wonderful?"</p>	<p><b>10. Manoah Asks for the Name of the Messenger</b> <i>a. The Question</i> <i>b. The Reason</i> <i>c. The Response (possibly, "incomprehensible")</i></p>
<p><sup>19</sup> So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on-- <sup>20</sup> it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar-- the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw <i>this</i>, they fell on their faces to the ground.</p>	<p><b>11. Manoah Makes an Offering to the LORD</b> <i>a. He offers a young goat and a grain offering</i> <i>b. Manoah and his wife were looking</i> <i>c. The messenger ascended in the flame</i> <i>d. Manoah and wife fall on their faces</i></p>
<p><sup>21</sup> When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the LORD. <sup>22</sup> And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!"</p>	<p><b>12. Manoah Realizes Who the Messenger Was</b> <i>a. The Trigger: Did not return after ascending</i> <i>b. The Realization</i> <i>c. Manoah's Fear</i></p>
<p><sup>23</sup> 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 shown us all these <i>things</i>, nor would He have told us <i>such things</i> as these at this time."</p>	<p><b>13. Manoah's Wife Eases Manoah's Fear</b></p>
<p><sup>24</sup> So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.</p>	<p><b>14. The Son Is Born as God Promised</b> <i>a. He is born</i> <i>b. He is named</i> <i>c. He grew</i> <i>d. The LORD blessed him</i></p>
<p><sup>25</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.</p>	<p><b>15. The LORD Begins to Move Upon Him</b></p>

**Three Lessons:**

- **God is in control of conception and gender.**
- **You can start out very good, but make choices that direct your life to be very bad.**
- **God may initiate a plan of deliverance for His people because He is gracious, not because they deserve it.**