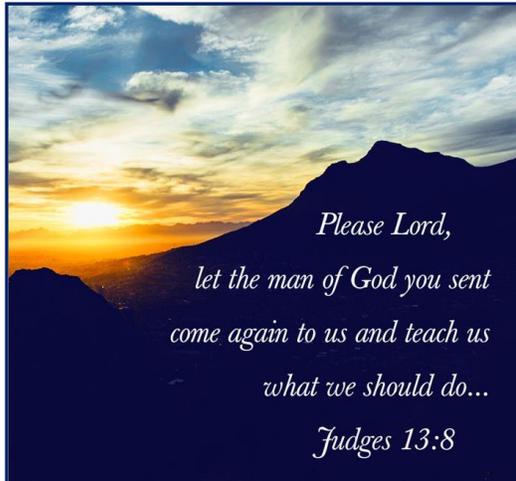


# SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017

## THEME – RESPONDING TO THE MASTER’S CALL

### UNIT I – CALLED TO BE STRONG

#### “SAMSON, GOD’S CALLED LEADER IN DARK, SERIOUS, SINFUL TIMES”



Sunday School Lesson IV – June 25, 2017

Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III~Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Judges 13:1-8, 24-25; 16:28-31; 21:25

Motto Text: Judges 13:5, 24-25, “*For, 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...And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.*”

Required Reading: Judges 13 – 16

Reliable Resources: The Book of Judges, Vols. 1-2 by Dr. David Jeremiah; Be Available by Dr. Warren Wiersbe; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Libronix Electronic Library; Dakes Annotated Reference Bible; MacArthur Study Bible by John MacArthur; Children’s Ministry Resource Bible; H. L. Wilmington’s Bible Handbook

#### INTRODUCTION

Well my dear friends, we come to the final lesson in the mini-series “Called to be Strong.” We have highlighted some of those whom God brought to center stage that we might have some insight concerning one of the darkest days in Israel’s history. This series has steadily revealed that a people without obedience to divine leadership are capable of doing anything. How often the truth continued to surface in the lives of the Israelites, “*And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord...*” (2:11; 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1). Yet, time after time the nation of the misguided repented and cried out to the Lord for help, and He graciously raised up Judges to deliver them.

In our final lesson from the book of Judges, we see that Israel again did evil in God’s eyes, and this time they suffered for 40 years under the hands of their longtime enemy of the west, the Philistines (13:1). But unlike other times, there was no man or woman waiting in the wings to rise up and deliver them, and God chose another form of deliverance. He chose to allow them to wait until a judge would be born from the most unlikely sources, Manoah and his barren wife. “**Samson, God’s Called Leader in Dark, Serious, Sinful Times.**”

#### Anticipated Power Points:

- **The Conditions.** Judges 13:1
- **The Conception.** Judges 13:2-3
- **The Consecration.** Judges 13:4-5
- **The Communications.** Judges 13:6-8
- **The Commencement.** Judges 13:24-25

#### Lesson Outline

Proverbs 4:18, “*But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*”

#### **I. The Conditions. Judges 13:1**

The method used of God to chastise the Israelites was by way of the Philistines, a migrated people from the Aegean Sea and Asia Minor. These people were technically advanced in the work of iron. According to I Samuel 13:19-22, Israel had to come to them for the sharpening of their metal tools. It was this nation with its 5 lords of their major cities (Askelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath and Gaza) that God used to humble Israel because of her sin. (Just a note: According to the Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator, the Philistines were not totally subdued until the days of King Hezekiah (II Kings 18:7-8)).

This was about 400 years after Samson, so the scripture is correct in verse 5, “...and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”

## **II. The Conception. Judges 13:2-3**

Now Dr. Warren Wiersbe speaks with candor, “When God wants to do something really great in this world, He doesn’t send an army but an angel. The angel often visits a couple and promises to send them a baby.” The Angel of the Lord (“a manifestation of God or also called a theophany”) appeared unto the barren wife of Manoah, both living in the land of the tribe of Dan. They were living in that portion of land originally given to them by lot through Joshua. (Read Joshua 19:40-48). As Manoah’s wife went about her duties, the appearance and message of the angel surely brought fear and yet it turned on the light of joy in her soul, for every Jewish woman desired to bring forth children, especially sons. Not really knowing who this bearer of good news was, she listened intently as he gave his instructions concerning the consecration of the child.

## **III. The Consecration. Judges 13:4-5**

The most unusual thing that is worthy of our study is the angel’s instructions concerning the yet unconceived son of Manoah and his wife. She is to take special note of what she eats and drinks while carrying the baby in her womb. She was to refrain from foods or drinks that would be defiling because the child was to be a Nazarite from the womb to the tomb! Now to learn much about the Nazarite vow, one should read Numbers 6:1-8. Now to highlight the Nazarite vow, Charles Ryrie defines a Nazarite: “A Nazarite (from a verb meaning ‘to separate or abstain’) was a layperson of either sex who was bound by a vow of consecration to God’s service for a specific period of time or in some cases for life.” We further consider from the Expositor and Illuminator three things that highlight the life of a Nazarite. “First, they were to abstain from all fermented beverages and any food that came from a grapevine. Second, they were to let their hair grow without cutting it. Third, they were never to touch a corpse, even if it was that of a close relative. These were visible signs of their relationship with God, saying to others that they were set apart for special purposes.”

## **IV. The Communications. Judges 13:6-8**

First, Manoah’s wife returns home and gives her clearest communication of the prophesized event to her husband. She describes first the awesomeness of the male figure that she was not sure was prophet or angel, but truly awestruck in appearance. He revered him (vs. 6). Secondly, she communicates everything the angel of the Lord declared concerning the diet and manner of life she was to carry on during the pregnancy, and the desire of the life the boy should live all of his life until his death! Thirdly, Manoah was moved to pray unto the Lord, so as to meet the prophetic messenger himself in order to clearly carry out the divine agenda.

Now the rest of the chapter exposes how God answered Manoah’s prayer and the return of the Angel of the Lord to confirm the message (vss. 9-14). Manoah and his wife seek to honor their visitor and bearer of good news with hospitality and the offering of a sacrifice, but the angelic visitor refuses to eat and declared all sacrifice should be totally offered unto the Lord (vss. 15-23)! In the offering of the sacrifice, Manoah and his wife are awe-stricken when the angel’s identity is no longer left to question, because he disappears and rises in the smoke of the sacrifice to God (vs. 20)! This communicates to the startled couple that they had stood before the presence of God.

## **V. The Commencement. Judges 13:24-25**

After the term of conception and delivery, the promised son is born and light has come to the life of the barren. So much so that his mother named him Samson, which is interpreted as “Shimshon, its meaning was ‘little son’ or ‘sunnyboy!’...The name may mean that the Lord had brought light into their dark existence.” (Phillips, Holman Old Testament Commentary: Judges, Ruth, Broadman and Holman.) As we close this lesson, Samson’s birth is endorsed with the words of God’s blessings. He was under God’s anointing of the Holy Spirit and was set to accomplish God’s will and desire as he humbly surrendered himself to God. Truly, Samson was a man born to bring light! The light of a child’s life is in his or her training. Proverbs 22:6 tells us to “*Train them in the way they should go.*” It takes a partnership with God to rear our children properly.

## **CLOSING**

God’s desire for Samson shone with the light of potential and hope, just as He gives to each of us the opportunity to live lives that please Him. Beloved, is the light of God’s Son Jesus Christ shining through you today? He is not willing that any should perish, but desires that all would come to repentance and be His light in the midst of a dark and dreary world. I end this lesson with the words found in Matthew 5:16, “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*” The Psalmist is correct in Psalm 127:3, “*Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.*”



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**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**July 2, 2017**

**Exodus 3:1-12**

**Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.**