



Parenting Wisdom from an Ancient Time

Judges 13
October 9, 2022

The Big Idea: The story of Samson usually focuses on his exploits as an adult. Don't miss the epic story of his parents who leave us a legacy of **praying** for a child, asking the Lord how to **raise** that child, and falling on their faces in **awe**, **gratitude**, and **worship** for who the Lord is.

13 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.

²There 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. ³And 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. ⁴Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, ⁵for 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.**" ⁶Then 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, ⁷but 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.'"

⁸Then 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.**" ⁹And 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. ¹⁰So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, "Behold, the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me." ¹¹And 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." ¹²And Manoah said, "Now when your words come true, **what is to be the child's manner of life, and what is his mission?**" ¹³And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. ¹⁴She 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."

¹⁵Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain you and prepare a young goat for you." ¹⁶And 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.) ¹⁷And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?" ¹⁸And the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask **my name**, seeing **it is wonderful?**" ¹⁹So 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. ²⁰And 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.

²¹The angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD. ²²And Manoah said to his wife, "**We shall surely die, for we have seen God.**" ²³But 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." ²⁴**And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him.**

LESSONS FROM SAMSON'S PARENTS

1. Every child is a **creation** of and **blessing** from the Lord.
2. All parents would do well to pray as Samson's parents did – for God to **teach** you what you are to do with the child He gave you and show you what their **mission** is.
3. We serve and worship a God whose nature is **wonderful** and who does **wonders** – things which can only be explained by His hand having touched the circumstances and changed the moment.
4. The only legitimate response when God reveals Himself to us is to fall before Him in awe and **worship** and commit our lives to **serving** Him.
5. No matter how hard you prayed and worked to lay a spiritual foundation for your children, they still make **choices** that will **break** your heart (just as we did with our parents).