




Ministry Minute

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Identity: Where do we
go from here?

Questions

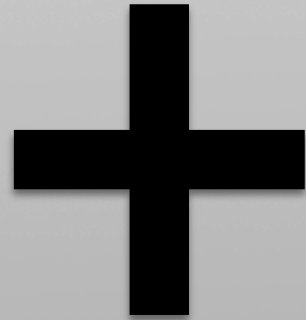
- Why does God pick us?
- Where does my free will fit into my new Identity?
- Am I still “me?”
- Am I trapped in my new identity?
- How does my new Identity effect my struggles?
- Does it make it easier or harder to live a holy life?

SAMSON

CHILD OF PROMISE



SAMSON



SAMSON

- Samson fights on his own behalf not the people.
- his heroic acts are the result of his love of a philistine woman(s).
- Dies in captivity without freeing his people fully.
- In between are stories of pain and violence.

Cycles of Dysfunction



✓ They enjoy success

✓ They sin against God

✓ God sends them into captivity

✓ They cry out to God

✓ He gives them a deliverer



Judges 13

1 “Now the sons of Israel **again did evil** in the sight of the Lord, so that the Lord gave them **into the hands of the Philistines** forty years.”



✓ They enjoy success

✓ They sin against God

✓ God sends them into captivity

✓ ~~They cry out to God~~

✓ He gives them a deliverer



Have you ever
been “bad?”



Am I too
Comfortable or
Beat Down to ask
God for help?

Judges 13

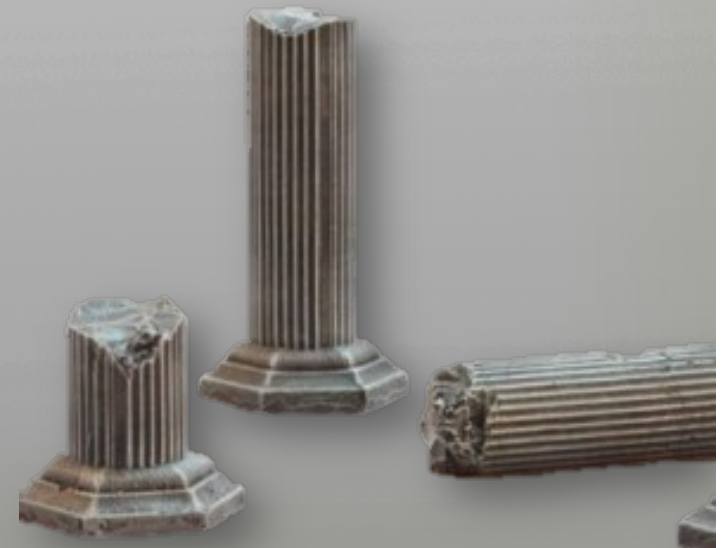
2 There was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had borne no *children*. **3** Then the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold now, you are barren and have borne no *children*, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son. **4** Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing.

Judges 13

5 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.”

Judges 13

- God's pattern of using barren women to give birth to incredible babies
 - Sarah
 - Rebekah
 - Rachel
 - Hannah
 - Elizabeth
 - Mary



Judges 13

6 Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, “A man of God came to me and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. And I did not ask him where he *came* from, nor did he tell me his name. 7 But he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and now you shall not drink wine or strong drink nor eat any unclean thing, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’”

Judges 13

➤ Bible Study Hint #37

“Pay attention when the story repeats itself.”

Judges 13

8 Then Manoah entreated the Lord and said, “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.”

9 God listened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again to the woman as she was sitting 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 the *other* day has...

Judges 13

...appeared to me.” **11** Then Manoah arose and followed his wife, and when he came to the man he said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to the woman?” And he said, “I am.” **12** Manoah said, “Now when your words come *to pass*, what shall be the boy’s mode of life and his vocation?” **13** So the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Let the woman pay attention to all that I said.

NAZARITE

NUMBERS 6



Judges 13

15 Then Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “Please let us detain you so that we may prepare a young goat for you.” **16** The angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Though you detain me, I will not eat 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 Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “What is your name, so that when your words come *to pass*, we may honor you?”

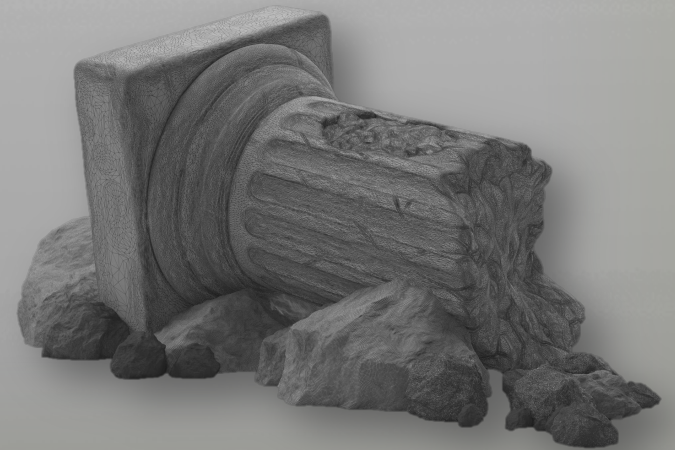
18 But the angel of the Lord said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?” 19 So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering and offered it on the rock to the Lord, and He performed wonders while Manoah and his wife looked on.

Judges 13

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.

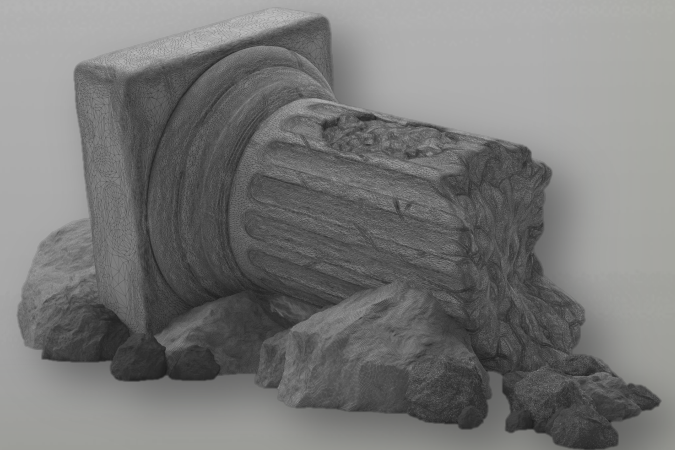
Judges 13

- Not just any messenger...
 - Wont give His name
 - Receives worship instead of a meal
 - Ascends in the fire of sacrifice



Judges 13

- Theophany: The post-Advent appearance of God on earth.



Judges 13

➤ Bible Study Hint #37

“Pay attention when the story repeats itself.”

Judges 13

21 Now the angel of the Lord did not appear to Manoah or his wife again. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the Lord. **22** So Manoah said to his wife, “We will surely die, for we have seen God.” **23** 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...”

Judges 13

...nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have let us hear *things* like this at this time.”

24 Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and the Lord blessed him. **25** And the Spirit of the Lord began to **stir** him...

- Born of a Miracle
 - Announced by Christ
 - Pure from Conception
 - Raised with God's Blessing
 - Full of the Holy Spirit



...

Is Samson's fate a
lock?

Is our fate a lock?

Philippians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.

For He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in His presence. In love

Is our fate a lock?

Philippians 1:5

He predestined us for adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will,

to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the Beloved One.

Is our fate a lock?

What God has done is a lock...

...What will you do?

SAMSON

**APRIL 14 - CHILD OF
PROMISE**

**APRIL 28 - BEAUTY TO
BURNING**

