

The Book of
JUDGES

Testing the Heart of God's Children



Separated to God

Judges 13:1-24

Lesson 13

Introduction

“Again, the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.” The Philistines were strong, seafaring people who originally came from the island of Crete. Settling in the southern coastal region of Israel, they built five cities and dominated the area for several hundred years. Proficient in smelting iron, they had weapons the Israelites and Canaanites had never even seen. Jon Courson Unlike other times, there is no record of Israel’s cry for deliverance. The LORD decides to act in spite of Israel’s complacency.

The Angel of the LORD announced that Samson was to be a Nazarite throughout his entire life. The Nazarite vow signified complete devotion, separation and consecration to the Lord for His purposes. The vow included three specific regulations: Abstinence from wine, strong drink and the fruit of the vine, not cutting the hair and no contact with the dead. Samson did not take his vow seriously and throughout his life proceeded to break every regulation of the vow.

Samson is the last judge found in the book of Judges, although Eli, Samuel and his sons can be found in 1 Samuel. Samson didn’t lead an army, but single-handedly carried out a campaign against the Philistines. Though called to a separated, consecrated life, Samson gives us a clear picture of what it means to “do what is right in our own eyes.” Samson’s choices were clearly driven by his desires and feelings, instead of God’s call on his life. Our individual standards, not guided by God’s Word are both misleading and deceiving. God intended Samson as a lesson carved in flesh to teach His people what it means to live a separated life. But God . . . used even this reckless disobedient life to accomplish His purpose for Israel. Imagine what God can do with one who is wholly dedicated to Him!



Looking for Gold - What does it say?

The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Setting the scene: Read Num 6:1-21, Gen. 49:17 for added insight. Use an atlas or other sources to place the cities in the appropriate place on your map. Pay attention to who's inheritance they are occupying.

Judges 13:1-7

1 Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

2 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. 3 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. 4 Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean. 5 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."

6 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. 7 And He said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.'"



Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

Judges 13:8-14

8 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."

9 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. 10 Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, "Look, the Man who came to me the other day has just now appeared to me!"

11 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."

12 Manoah said, "Now let Your words come to pass! What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?"

13 So 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 anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe."



Judges 13:15-24

15 Then Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord, "Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You."

16 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.)

17 Then Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord, "What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?"

18 And 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 upon the rock to the Lord. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on — **20** 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 this, they fell on their faces to the ground. **21** 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.

22 And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because 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, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have told us such things as these at this time."

24 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. **25** And the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.



Boiling it Down – What does it mean?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?
State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Judges 13:1-7 _____

Judges 13:8-14 _____

Judges 13:15-24 _____



Refined as Gold - How can I apply it?



How should it change me? Ask yourself, "What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?" (aim for 10 words or less)

Judges 13:1-7 _____

Judges 13:8-14 _____

Judges 13:15-24 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



Storing up Your Treasure . . .

What did God say? v 3-5

When did Israel cry out to the Lord for deliverance from the Philistines?

How did God respond to Manoah's request for the boy's rule of life and work? v 20-21

What did God say Samson would do? v. 5b

What words or phrases are repeated?

Checking for Clarity: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Judges 13:1-7 _____
Judges 13:8-14 _____
Judges 13:15-24 _____

Bars of Gold: State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles: Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?



Hide Your Treasure in your Heart

. . . God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 2 Thess. 2:13

Radiating His Truth . . .

A separated Christian is a Bible-centered, Christ-controlled Christian, in whom God is reproducing His character by the Holy Spirit. - Gary Inrig

