

SAMSON – THE UNASKED-FOR SAVIOR

--JUDGES 13:1-25--

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we begin to look at the history of the final judge given to us in book of Judges. In this history there is a heavy blend of passion, heroism, and tragedy. It is the history of this judge that is the longest of all the histories that we have looked at in this book, four chapters are devoted to the history of the judge Samson. Though much of Samson's life seems to be chaotic and a maddening race from one place to the next, underneath all of this there is a steady development toward an already determined end which has a profound theological significance. That significance is that Samson is God's man, just as Israel is His people, and neither Samson nor Israel can escape the destiny God has predetermined for them. Samson alone has his birth and destiny announced in advance by God Himself, and in his history that we have recorded for us the whole central portion of this book is brought to a resounding climax. This morning we will begin in chapter 13 which is an account of what took place leading up to his birth.

I. APOSTASY AGAIN (Judges 13:1)

- a. After a ____-____ rest period under the judgeship of the last three of the minor judges the children of Israel again lapsed back into their old ways.
- b. Everything about this is bad, Israel abandons the _____ and begins to serve idols again.
- c. But in these 40 years of oppression, we do not read of them crying out to the LORD to _____ them.

II. AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR (Judges 13:2-5)

- a. The author introduces us to this _____ and his wife in verse 2.
- b. *“There was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was _____ and had borne no children.”* (Judges 13:2, NASB95)

- c. When it seemed nothing would change an unexpected _____ showed up.
- d. There are two other thing that we must notice about this _____ that was to be born to Manoah and his wife.
 1. We learn that he is to be _____ from birth, a Nazirite to God from the womb.
 2. He will be a Nazirite to _____, in other words, belonging to God, set apart for God to use.
- e. There is one more thing that needs to be noted in this message that the LORD tells this woman, He told her why Samson would be _____ to God, because *“he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”* (Judges 13:5b, NASB95)

III. A PRAYED FOR VISITOR (Judges 13:6-23)

- b. As soon as the angel of the LORD departed, Manoah's wife went to find her husband to tell him the _____ news.
- c. Manoah wants more _____; he wants to know if there is something special that they are to do for this boy who is going to be born.
- d. When he sees him, a conversation takes place between them, but the LORD basically tells Manoah what He had already _____ his wife.
- e. Manoah tries one more time to get a little more information by asking the man's _____, so that when the man's words are fulfilled, they may honor Him.
- f. If Manoah was trying to gain some control here by getting more information about this baby they were going to have, he had _____.

IV. A BLESSED CHILD (Judges 13:24-25)

- a. So, as we come to the end of chapter 13 the background is _____.
- b. Into the dark world in which Manoah and his wife lived, _____ has come.

CONCLUSION:

Everything about this chapter tells us that this child to be born, this child named Samson is an extremely special person. He is holy, separated to God from the womb. His birth is announced beforehand by the Angel of the LORD. He is declared to be a savior—God’s savior. Early in his adult life he is claimed by the Spirit for his divine destiny. And as we will learn in the weeks ahead, he is rejected by his own people, arrested, and handed over to their enemies, tortured and made a spectacle by them, until at last his calling is accomplished in his death. By dying he destroys Dagon, the god of Israel’s enemies, the Philistines. It is a theological victory, not just a material or physical one. It is only the beginning. But those who knew about Samson could never believe, anymore, that the Philistines were all powerful or that Dagon ruled the world.

More dark days came, until eventually another angel appeared to another childless woman and said, “*And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.*” (Luke 1:31–33, NASB95) And to her betrothed husband who did not know what to do with his virgin bride who was pregnant the angel said, “*She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.*” (Matthew 1:21, NASB95) And the words spoken to Mary and Joseph in those days outlived the Roman empire and are still true today. So when the way seems dark around you, when you feel that all is lost, when you want to be in control, but you can’t be and all seems helpless and hopeless, remember this: A Child has been born, A Son has been given (Isaiah 9:6), and by His death he has overcome and defeated the god of this world. He has begun our salvation and will complete on the day of Christ Jesus. And if you believe that—no matter how dark your present circumstances may be, no matter how helpless and hopeless you may feel—you do not need to ever despair. (2 Corinthians 4:16–18)