

Judges, Sermon #42

In Judges 13, God promised He would send a very special deliverer—Samson.

Samson was to be born into a family that had no children.

And, God gave some specific instructions to his mother regarding this boy—Samson was to be a Nazarite.

Samson's Nazarite vow wasn't something he voluntarily took—God gave it to him, but during the pregnancy, his mother was to keep the Nazarite vows, too.

1. No wine or strong drink
2. Do not eat any unclean thing
3. And, when Samson was born—do not cut his hair

The Nazarite vow was something Manoah and his wife would have to teach their son.

Samson was to be separated unto the Lord—set apart for special service to God and for Israel.

I've entitled tonight's message "God's Plan for Samson, Part 2"—and, really that's all that matters.

Judges 13:8

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

Judges 13:8-25

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

God's Plan for Samson

We find Manoah as a Godly man in a country of evil people.

God always has His people even in the darkest times and places.

Elijah had this syndrome—that he was the only one left and God said, no, there were 7,000 who had not bowed the knee.

Philippians 2:15, *“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.”*

The darker the culture, the brighter the light

Vs. 8

The concern of Manoah was how to rear the child, exactly what rules were to be used to guide his life.

So, Manoah asked God for instruction and information and tutelage: Teach us how to raise the child.

Few parents make or take the time to pray and ask God, much less invest into themselves on how God wants them to raise their children.

Manoah desired God's direction in raising his family

The claims of God were upon this child, and it was the obligation of the parents to train him for the work God sent him to do.

Manoah knew it was the parents' responsibility.

The Bible clearly assigns the task of spiritual training and education to the home.

Turn back to Deuteronomy 6:1-7.

The child's father is the responsible party for determining the training of his children.

To be sure, the Bible makes the parents ultimately responsible, and the father specifically, because he is the head of the home.

He is responsible to train up the children in the fear of God.

Ephesians 6:4, "*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*"

★ Because this is true, the forces of evil will do everything possible to keep fathers from accomplishing this task. ★

Providing food, clothing, and shelter is not enough.

Dads must plan, provide for, and oversee the spiritual education of their children.

This involves planning of the greatest importance.

A father may *delegate* the training of his children to others, but he may never *abdicate* it.

This means that he must remain *authoritatively involved*.

God has delegated it to him, and he will answer to God for how he handles it.

Never assume for a moment that any educational process can replace the influence of a father in the life of a child.

Therefore, our church makes a special effort to instruct fathers for this Biblical imperative and not to take his place.

So, Manoah seeks instruction from the Lord (vs. 8)

The best place to find wisdom to rear our children is from the One who created them.

Go to the Word of God for answers.

The world says, no spanking.

God says, spanking

The world says, a village raises the child.

God says, the parents are responsible.

If we follow the world's advice, we will destroy our children and bring shame upon ourselves and Christ.

God's way is the best way to train our kids!

Vs. 12

Do you know how many Christian parents never ask these questions?

Vs. 12—first question, what should be his manner of life?

What shall be his undertaking?

Vs. 9

God answers prayer—God sends a special Person.

Vs. 17-18

The Angel of the Lord asked why they wanted to know His name.

It was a secret. The word "secret" means wonderful.

It was too wonderful to imagine.

This is the same word used in Isaiah 9:6 that was used to describe the Lord.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

His name is *secret*, translated *wonderful, beyond understanding*, which is a title for Christ.

Christ's name is wonderful because He is wonderful!

Vs. 24a

The promise of God for a deliverer is delivered.

So, the birth of Samson is a picture of God meeting the needs of His dear people.

The baby was born and was named Samson, which means “sunny” or “brightness.”

Certainly he brought light and joy to Manoah and his wife, who had no children; and he

also began to bring light to Israel during the dark days of Philistine oppression

(vs. 26)

As Samson grew into manhood, the Lord blessed him (v. 24).

The hand of God was on him in a special way.

The presence of God was upon his life in a very special way.

This is what God did for him—“blessed by the Lord” and “empowered by the Holy Spirit”

(vs. 25)

Vs. 25

The ministry of the Spirit, 13:25, 14:6, 19, 15:14

In the Old Testament era, the Holy Spirit came upon certain individuals to empower them to certain tasks.

In the New Testament, all God's people receive the Spirit and are sealed and receive power.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is real and is not far from us—and, God has blessed us and He has a plan for us just like He had for Samson.

So, God is working in Samson's life.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Dads raising kids—not Christian school's responsibility, not church's responsibility,
although it helps.

Rearing Godly children—praying to God for them and to help us

Looking to God's Word for wisdom and instructions

Do we grieve the Spirit?

Do we quench the Spirit?

Or, do we walk in the Spirit?