

**“Sampson – The Nazirite”**

**Judges 13**

**Scripture Ref: Col 3:2-3; 2 Cor 5:17; Hab 3:18; 2 Cor 12:10; Is 9:6**

1. This past week I got an invitation to my high school 30<sup>th</sup> reunion
  - a. And I started thinking about high school, and the people I knew, and how some of their lives turned out.
  - b. Some of the people you thought would never amount to much in life – maybe people we even picked on and made fun of...
    - i. We don’t make fun of them now – we call them boss!
  - c. Others that we thought were destined for greatness...
    - i. Ended up destroying their lives – one bad decision after another –
  - d. Sometimes people that start well don’t always finish well
  - e. Samson was just such a man.
2. This is an account of a man who had great potential...
  - a. Some of the most well-known bible stories are of Samson
  - b. Samson had brains, and brawn – he was fearless in the face of danger – he would take on a thousand men!
  - c. Yet the one thing he refused to fight – was SIN.
  - d. He could have been one of the greatest leaders in the history of Israel...
  - e. Instead he became a proverb – how not to live
3. Little things that become big things...
  - a. Little compromises became his undoing.
4. But also – a story of second chances.
5. Parts
  - a. The birth of Sampson
  - b. Sampson and his Philistine wife
  - c. Sampson and Delilah
  - d. The Death of Sampson

**The Birth of Samson (SLIDE #3)**

**13:1 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.**

6. The cycle repeats – again!
7. Philistines, or “sea peoples” were a people that were thought to have migrated from Egypt
  - a. Had settled in Crete, then attempted to return to Egypt

- b. Records found from the time of Ramses III tell of the battle where the Philistines were defeated
  - c. Eventually migrated to the coast of what is now Israel in 12<sup>th</sup> century BC
8. That's where we find them now in our account –
- a. Instead of being wiped out as God had commanded, they were now stronger than ever – and they oppressed the children of Israel.
9. Notice that the time of bondage has expanded – now it is 40 years!
- a. Remember - sin always...
    - i. Takes you farther
    - ii. Keeps you longer
    - iii. Costs you more!

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."*

#### **The Nazirite Vow (SLIDE #4)**

##### **10. The OT Nazirite**

11. There were three conditions a Nazirite had to observe:

- a. He could not touch a dead body of any kind.
- b. He was not allowed to drink wine or strong drink, or even to have any contact with the grapes.
- c. He was to let his hair grow long.
- d. The Nazirite was to do this as a sign that he was called, set apart, and visibly chosen for a specific task for the Lord.

#### **The New Testament Nazirite (SLIDE #5)**

12. These Old Testament provisions, again, are symbolic snapshots of things which hold true in our spiritual life today.

- a. A Nazirite in the Old Testament symbolizes *sanctification*.
- b. In the New, "sanctified" means *"set apart"* for a particular purpose."
- c. Those of us who know Jesus Christ as Lord are said to be sanctified, to be *set apart to serve him*.

- d. **And the same three conditions obtained under the Nazirite vow are true for us in the spiritual realm:**

**13. We are not to touch anything dead. We are to have nothing to do with the old life.**

- a. **We are not to go back and attempt to resurrect the old life, the flesh which has been crucified with Christ, and try to live out of that resource.**
- b. **Paul says,**

***Col 3:2-3***

*Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

- c. **We have a new life, a resurrection life, which Paul says is life indeed.**

*2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

**14. We should not find our joy in the things of this life, from wine or any other natural thing, but rather, from the Spirit of God.**

*Hab 3:18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.*

**15. The provision regarding long hair is very interesting. In the Scriptures long hair is said to be a shameful thing for a man (1 Cor 11:14).**

- a. **It is a sign of weakness. This refers, of course, to excessively long hair--longer than the accepted length for women at any particular time.**
- b. **A Nazirite would put himself under that condition in order to indicate his weakness, because his strength would grow out of that weakness.**
- c. **The same is true for us. The Scriptures say that where we are weak that is where we are strong.**

*2 Cor 12:10 For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

**16. If we sense our need for dependence upon another resource, if we are not counting upon our own credentials, our own strength, our own abilities--that is proper recognition of our weakness.**

- a. **It is in weakness that we discover our strength in our indwelling Lord.**

**17. So, just as a Nazirite was to fulfill these three conditions of separation,**

- a. **We too have been called, set apart, and chosen for a specific task by the Lord**

**18. It is also interesting that Samson was called to be a Nazirite from his birth, which was unusual.**

- a. **Ordinarily a person would take this vow later on in life, generally for only a short term.**
- b. **But Samson was to be one from his birth. We, as well, are Nazirites from our birth, our new birth.**
- c. **So from the moment we are born into God's family, we are called, set apart, and visibly chosen for a specific task.**

**19. In the case of Samson, unfortunately what we will find is that he violated every condition on the vow, and it cost him dearly.**

**Manoah and the "Awesome" Angel of the Lord (SLIDE #6)**

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.'"

**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."

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."

### **Christophany**

**20. Obvious that this is a "Christophany" – or an appearance of Christ prior to His birth on earth**

- a. He is called the "Angel of the Lord"
- b. His name is called "wonderful"

#### ***Isa 9:6***

*And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

- c. He receives worships by the burnt offering

### **Tell me the deal!**

**21. Interesting that Manoah asked several questions – "what will the boy do, what is your name", that the Angel simply ignored...**

- a. Simply obey what you have been given!
- b. One of my kids is learning that now – we ask him to do something, and its always "why? What will happen? What will I get?"
- c. We sometimes want to know how things are going to work out – but I believe God in His wisdom doesn't always tell us
- d. Because – we would probably mess it all up!

### **Samson the "Partial Deliverer"**

**22. "he shall begin to deliver Israel"**

- a. As we go through the story we will discover that although Samson was raised up to deliver Israel, he never accomplished the task - because he never delivered himself.**
- b. There was frequent partial victory, but never a complete victory and final, total domination of the enemy,**
- c. because he could never deal with one particular area in his life--at least, he never would deal with it.**
- d. So he only *began* to deliver Israel. He never finished...**
- e. Next week – we'll look at his marriage.**

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.

Copyright © 2008 Pastor Clay Ritter. This data file is the sole property of Pastor Clay Ritter. It may be copied only in its entirety for circulation freely without charge. All copies of this data file must contain this copyright notice. This data file may not be copied in part, edited, revised, copied for resale or incorporated in any commercial publications, recordings, broadcasts, performances, displays or other products offered for sale, without the written permission of Pastor Clay Ritter. Requests for permission should be made in writing and addressed to Pastor Clay Ritter, c/o Calvary Chapel of Wilmington, 2831 Carolina Beach Rd, Wilmington NC, 28412.