

Rev. Luke's Weekly Blog

September 11, 2025



WONDERFUL!!!

Judges 13:1-24

This narrative details the announcement of Samson's birth to Manoah and his wife. It reveals a figure who is more than a mere angelic being, displaying characteristics that prefigure the incarnate Son of God.

In Judges 13, the **Angel of the Lord** appears to Manoah's wife, a barren woman, to announce the birth of Samson, who would begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines. The figure is introduced as the Angel of the Lord, a title used elsewhere in the Old Testament to denote a unique divine messenger, often identified with God Himself (e.g., Genesis 16:7-13; Exodus 3:2-6).



When Manoah asked the Angel of the LORD, **What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honour You**, He responded, **Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?**" (Judges 13:17-18). The Hebrew word for **wonderful** suggests something beyond human comprehension, a term later applied to the Messiah in Isaiah 9:6, where He is called **Wonderful**. This enigmatic response implies a divine identity, as the Angel accepts worship through Manoah's offering, an act reserved for God alone.

Manoah's realization that they have seen God and his fear of death (Judges 13:22) echo encounters with the divine in other theophanies, such as Genesis 32:30 and Exodus 3:6. These characteristics align with our understanding of Jesus as the pre-incarnate Word, who is both distinct from and one with God (John 1:1-14).

The Angel delivers God's promise, provides instructions for Samson's consecration, and confirms His words through a miraculous sign. This mediatorial function mirrors Jesus' role as the mediator of the new covenant, who bridges the gap between a holy God and sinful humanity (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 9:15).

Just as the Angel guides Manoah and his wife toward obedience and trust in God's plan, Jesus, through His life, death, and resurrection, guides us into a restored relationship with God.



Samson's mission, as foretold by the Angel, also points to Christ as the greater deliverer. Samson is commissioned to **begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines** (Judges 13:5), a partial and temporary deliverance limited by his personal failings. In contrast, Jesus accomplishes a complete and eternal deliverance from sin and death through His perfect obedience and sacrificial death.

Samson's Nazirite vow, which set him apart for God's service, speaks of Jesus' perfect consecration to the Father's will. While Samson's life ended in a final act of strength that destroyed his enemies at the cost of his own life, Jesus' death and resurrection defeated sin and death definitively, bringing life to all who believe (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).



Thus, Samson's role as a judge and deliverer serves as a type of Christ, whose redemptive work fulfills and surpasses the incomplete victories of Israel's judges.

This foreshadowing affirms God's unchanging plan of redemption, revealed progressively through history and fulfilled in Christ. God is actively involved in human affairs, speaking to His people and working through unlikely vessels to accomplish His purposes. We are also assured of God's presence and faithfulness and reminded of the centrality of Christ in God's redemptive plan, and are called to trust and worship Him as the ultimate deliverer.

PRAY THAT:

1. God may teach you to walk in obedience and holiness.
2. God's hand of deliverance may be upon our lives, families, and nations.
3. Every prophecy, type, and shadow of Christ deepens our worship of Him as the fulfillment of the redemptive plan.

Soli Deo Gloria – to God alone be the glory!
Rev. Luke Haisa

