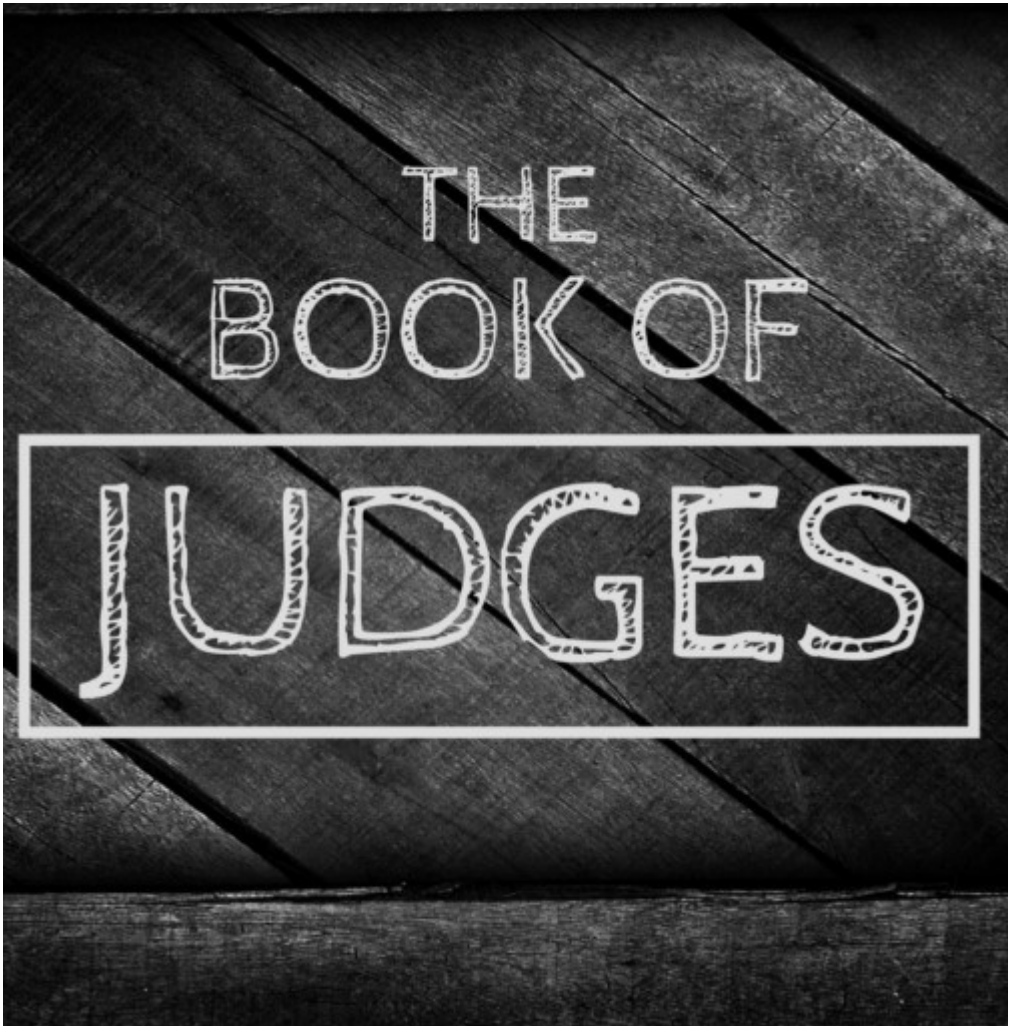


# Let's Worship God

18th-23rd April 2022  
Judges



# JUDGES

## Monday - Judges 13:1 - Philistines

The Book of Judges tells us more about Samson than any other judge. For the next several weeks, we will be considering his life and judgeship.

In Judges 10:7, we read that, because of the Israelites' idolatry, the Lord sold them into the hands of the Philistines and Ammonites. He raised up Jephthah to liberate the Israelites in the east from the oppression of the Ammonites after eighteen years. The Philistine oppression in the west lasted forty years, before God raised up Samson to deliver Israel.

According to Genesis 10:14, the Philistines were descendants of Mizraim (Egypt), son of Ham, son of Noah. Jeremiah 47:4 and Amos 9:7 suggest they came from Caphtor (Crete). While there were some Philistines in the land in the days of Abraham and Isaac (as we find in Genesis 21 and 26), they seem only to have occupied the city of Gerar. An invasion of more Philistines from Crete after the time of the Exodus gave them control of five major cities in the southwest of Canaan - Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and Gath.

In this era, the Philistines were more advanced than the Israelites in metalworking and in the use of chariots. 1 Samuel 13:19-22 tells us that when they ruled over Israel, they refused to let the Israelites have blacksmiths, lest they make iron weapons. Despite these advancements, the Philistines' barbaric treatment of Israel has led to the use of "Philistine" as a term for an uncouth person. It is from this people that the Romans and others named the land of Canaan "Palestine."

God used this people to discipline Israel on several occasions. This was for Israel's ultimate good, to bring them back to the Lord.

## Questions

1. From which son of Noah did the Philistines descend?
2. Why would the Philistines not want the Israelites to have blacksmiths?
3. Why would "Philistine" be used as a term for an uncouth person?

## Prayer Points

1. Thank God that He uses events of history to bring His people to Himself.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"And the Angel of the LORD said to him, 'Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?'" Judges 13:18

**Praise: Psalm 73 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Tuesday - Judges 13:2 - The Tribe of Dan**

Joshua 19:40-48 tells us that, in the days of Joshua son of Nun, the tribe of Dan was allotted a land that included the lowlands near the Mediterranean Sea on the west and hill country to the east. Judges 1:34 tells us they were unable to conquer the lowlands in their allotted territory and were confined to the hill country. So the Danites found themselves sandwiched between the Philistines to the west, and the tribes of Judah to the south, Benjamin to the east and Ephraim to the north. It is in this era in which the tribe of Dan is oppressed by the Philistines and confined to a land too small for them that God will use a Danite mightily to deliver His people.

In Genesis 49, Jacob predicted that the tribe of Dan would judge the people ("Dan" means "judge" in Hebrew), and would be "a serpent in the way; a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels, so that his rider falls backwards." In other words, Jacob predicted that the tribe of Dan would, among other things, harass the enemies of Israel and cause them to falter.

As we will see in the coming weeks, the Lord will certainly use Dan - in particular Samson of the tribe of Dan - to cause the Philistines to fall backwards. In particular, we will find that Samson's frustration with the challenging circumstances of his life push him to action against the Philistines.

Sometimes, like the tribe of Dan, we might feel too confined by the circumstances of life. The pressures of a job, school, or relationship may seem to whittle away at the enjoyment we get out of life. As with the tribe of Dan, the Lord will use these circumstances to shape us, grow us, and move us to action on behalf of His people.

## **Questions**

1. Why might the tribe of Dan have felt confined in its allotted territory?
2. How did God use these circumstances for the good of His people?
3. What might the LORD be doing through the frustrating circumstances in your life?

## **Prayer Points**

1. Ask God to shape you through the circumstances of your life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## **Memory Verse**

"And the Angel of the LORD said to him, 'Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?'" Judges 13:18

**Praise: Psalm 74 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Wednesday - Judges 13:2-7 - A Nazarite from the Womb**

We meet a man named Manoah and his wife, who are of the tribe of Dan and live in the town of Zorah. These two long to have children, but have so far been unable. Then the Angel of the Lord appears to Manoah's wife. Remember, the Angel of the Lord who appears four times in the Book of Judges is the Son of God appearing as a Man before His incarnation. So this is our Savior, Himself, speaking to Manoah's wife. He assures her that, though she has been barren, she shall conceive and bear a son.

Notably, this son is to be a Nazarite his whole life. A Nazarite was a person dedicated with a vow for a special service to the Lord. As Numbers 6 informs us, for the time of that service, until his vow is fulfilled, the Nazarite was not to drink alcohol (or even vinegar made from an alcoholic beverage), drink grape juice, or eat grapes. He was not to cut his hair, nor could he touch anything unclean. Therefore, the son of Manoah and his wife is never to touch anything ceremonially unclean, have any product of the grape vine, nor any alcoholic beverage. He is to keep his hair unshorn all the days of his life. The Angel of the Lord is hereby telling Manoah's wife that her son is going to be used by God for a special service.

It is important for us to notice that, in order for this child to be a Nazarite his whole life, his mother must not drink alcohol or eat anything unclean, lest the boy's Nazarite commitment be violated. This shows us that God considers each of us to be a person from the time of our conception. The notion that a child in the womb is not an individual person, with his or her own life and rights, and thus that it is no crime to kill a child in the womb, is abominable. From the moment a child begins to grow in the womb, he or she is a human being, made in the image of God. We must cherish each life the Lord has created.

### **Questions**

1. How early in his life did Samson's Nazarite commitment begin?
2. What does this tell us about when human life begins?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that unborn children might be protected.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"And the Angel of the LORD said to him, 'Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?'" Judges 13:18

**Praise: Psalm 75 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## Thursday - Judges 13:8-14 - Manoah Prays

At first, the Angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife, and, as we read yesterday, she told her husband about her encounter and the Angel's promise and commandments concerning the son she was to bear. We read today that Manoah prays to the Lord that the man (whom he does not yet know is God Himself), may return and teach them what they are to do with the child. Notice that Manoah does not seem to doubt his wife's word or the Angel's promises. Indeed, when the Angel returns to Manoah's wife in the field, and she fetches her husband, he says to the Angel, "Now when your words come true, what is to be the child's manner of life, and what is his mission?" He does not say "if" but "when." Manoah is confident in the Lord's promises.

The Angel reiterates his instructions to Manoah's wife. We can see further evidence that this is the Lord Himself and no mere angel, in that, rather than saying, "Do what God has commanded," He says, "All that I have commanded, let her observe." Notice also, that he does not answer Manoah's question about the boy's mission. He simply points to the commandments He has already given.

When we are unclear about what God wants us to do in a specific situation we must consider His commandments and pray. We must not do what God has forbidden, and we must not neglect to do what He has commanded. Beyond that, we ought to pray for the wisdom to do what is the most profitable for God's Kingdom in any given situation. Moreover, like Manoah, we must pray in faith, trusting that, whether our questions are answered or not, the Lord knows and will do what is best for us.

## Questions

1. How does Manoah express his confidence in the Angel's promises?
2. What evidence do we find that the Angel of the Lord is God, Himself?
3. What should we do when we don't know what God wants in a specific situation?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray for wisdom to do what is most profitable for God's Kingdom.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"And the Angel of the LORD said to him, 'Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?'" Judges 13:18

**Praise:** Psalm 76 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.

# JUDGES

## Friday - Judges 13:15-20 - A Sacrifice Accepted

If we were ever uncertain that the Angel of the Lord in this passage is the Lord God, Himself, today's reading should put our uncertainty to rest. Three things in particular stand out as proof that this is the Lord: First, when Manoah wants to cook a young goat for this Guest, the Angel says He will not eat, but directs Manoah instead to offer the kid to the Lord. Verse 16 tells us that the Angel said this because Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the Lord. In other words, He spoke of God in the third person only because Manoah did not know this was God standing in front of him.

Secondly, when Manoah asks the Angel's name, He answers "Why do you ask My Name, seeing it is wonderful?" This puts us in mind of Genesis 32:29 in which the Angel would not tell Jacob His Name, and of Isaiah 9:6 which includes "Wonderful" among the names and titles of the promised Messiah.

Lastly, when Manoah makes his offering to the Lord, the Angel goes up in the flames of the altar, indicating that He has accepted the sacrifice Manoah made. Appropriately, Manoah and his wife fall on their faces in worship.

That the Angel of the Lord, the eternal Son of God Himself, came to Samson's parents to instruct them concerning the birth and upbringing of their son tells us that we should pay particular attention to what God will be doing in the life of Samson. He will use this man mightily for His purposes to deliver Israel from the Philistines. In verse 5, the Angel promised the child would "begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines." The deliverance from the Philistines begun in Samson's day will be completed by King David. Likewise, our deliverance, begun from God's first declaration of the Gospel in Genesis 3:15, has its completion in David's descendant, Jesus Christ.

### Questions

1. What three clues do we have that this Angel is God Himself?
2. Why is it important that Christ, Himself, visited Manoah and his wife?
3. In whom do we find complete deliverance?

### Prayer Points

1. Thank God for the deliverance we have in Jesus Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"And the Angel of the LORD said to him, 'Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?'" Judges 13:18

**Praise: Psalm 77 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# JUDGES

## **Saturday - Judges 13:21-25 - To See God**

What we have been able to piece together from the evidences in Judges 13 - that the Angel of the Lord who visited Manoah and his wife was God Himself - was not lost on this godly couple. Like Isaiah in Isaiah 6:5, Manoah expresses great fear at being in the presence of God, saying "We shall surely die, for we have seen God." Rightly, he understands that the Lord is holy, and, therefore, He cannot abide sin in His presence. Thus, for a sinner to find that he has been in the presence of God is a terrifying realization. How can a sinner hope to endure, when the Holy God has come near to him? The answer is grace.

Manoah's wife wisely points out that if the Lord had meant to destroy them, He would not have accepted their sacrifice, nor would He have promised them the son they are now going to have. Much like Jacob in Genesis 32:30, she rejoices at God's mercy, that He has allowed them to see Him and yet live. This is not something they had merited or deserved, but a free gift from the Lord.

She bears a son to her husband and they call him "Samson," which may mean "sun-like." After so many years of yearning for a child, the Lord brings light into their lives by giving them this son. He will grow under God's blessing and be stirred to action by the Spirit of the Lord.

Like Manoah and his wife, you and I are sinners who do not deserve to be in the presence of the Lord. Nevertheless, if His grace is upon us and our sins are therefore forgiven in Christ, we may approach Him with confidence, as Hebrews 4:16 teaches. If our faith is in Jesus, we need not fear to be in the holy presence of the Lord, not because we merit it, but because Christ has earned it for us. Clothed in His perfect righteousness, one day we will see God and yet live.

### **Questions**

1. Why did Manoah fear the Lord would now kill him and his wife?
2. Why did his wife disagree?
3. How may we approach God with confidence? May we see God and live?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

### **Memory Verse**

"And the Angel of the LORD said to him, 'Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?'" Judges 13:18

**Praise: Psalm 78 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced  
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

If you have any queries please contact - [rpchurchscotland@gmail.com](mailto:rpchurchscotland@gmail.com)