

An Exceptional Birth with Exciting Potential
Judges 12:8-13:25

Some judges obviously want to live like kings. 12:8-15

For harems, see 8:30,32, 10:4. For donkeys, see II Samuel 13:9, 16:2.

Angelic announcement: Manoah's barren wife will have a son. 13:1-7

- ❖ Recall others in the select group of famous barren wives who are miraculously enabled to conceive? Consider who their sons were!
- ❖ For this Nazirite command, see Num. 6:1ff. How is it different here?
- ❖ Expectations for Samson will be huge, but note his role as Israel's deliverer isn't even mentioned to Manoah. Why is it left out?

Angelic announcement again: Manoah gets no new info. 13:8-25

- ❖ The angel is evasive with skeptical/curious Manoah. C/C to 6:17ff.
- ❖ For the angel's identity, see 6:22,23, Gen. 32:20,28-30, Ps. 139:6.
- ❖ Manoah's wife is more perceptive than he is; but it is so odd she names her child after the sun instead of a Yahwistic name!
- ❖ Expectations build as God blesses /the Spirit stirs him. 4x out of 7x *the Spirit* occurs in Judges it's upon Samson, 14:6,19, 15:14.

Question: What should we make of Samson's parents?



Samson was so blessed and so gifted, but consider our blessings and giftedness. See Eph. 1:3-6, I Cor. 12:4-7, I Pt. 4:10,11, 2:9.

Looking ahead we know Samson did some heroic things (he is in Heb.11:32), but he clearly didn't live up to his potential, which we can also fail to do. See Heb. 5:12, Eph. 4:30, I Cor. 3:14,15, Lk. 19:20ff. II Jn. 8.