

June 25, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Jesus is the hope that calms life's storms

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Lord, help me to see beyond my circumstances and put my hope in You. All authority and power are Yours. Remind me of Your goodness, and let me rest in Your love.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
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."
(Judges 13:5 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Mar 20, 2015)

Series: God's Urgent Call
UNIT: Calling of Prophets

NEXT WEEK

Moses

(Exodus 3:1-12)

Samson **Judges 13:1-7, 24-25**

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines the details of this unusual call of **Samson** and the outcome. The **study's aim** is to see that God may employ other people in His call of a person. The **study's application** is to remind us to be open to the call of God and to allow Him to work out the details over time.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

The angelic message recorded in our text came at a time of great distress for both the nation of Israel and an obscure couple of the tribe of Dan. For the couple, the announcement of the coming birth of a son was an occasion for great rejoicing, for the woman previously had been unable to bear children. While the parents of the one who would be named Samson appear to be godly people, the nation itself had once again fallen into sin. As a result, the Lord had allowed the Philistines to oppress them. The angel's announcement of a coming deliverer in the person of Samson was also reason for rejoicing. This call of Samson, if we can call it that, is unique in several ways. First, during the tumultuous period of the judges, the Lord's deliverance usually came in response to national repentance. There is no such repentance recorded here, yet the Lord graciously promised them one who would deliver them from the Philistines. Second, the deliverer was announced even before his birth and naming. Samson apparently grew up knowing that the Lord had a special plan for him, and the Spirit confirmed this (cf. Judg. 13:25). The third unique thing about the call of Samson was that he would be a Nazarite.

According to Numbers 6:1-6, a Nazarite vow was a consecration of one's life to the service of the Lord for a fixed period of time. The vow was marked by three obligations: the Nazarite was to abstain from wine, not cut his hair, and avoid touching a dead body, which would incur ceremonial un-cleanness. Only the second of these was mentioned by the Angel of the Lord, though Samson's mother would have been aware of the other requirements. The vow was voluntary; however, in the case of Samson, it was determined for him by the Lord. We find something similar in the cases of Samuel (I Sam. 1:11) and John the Baptist (Luke 1:15). While the nation was in apostasy and had shown no remorse at this point, the Lord announced that He would deliver His people by one who was set apart and empowered by the Lord for unique service. Such an announcement, along with the later appearance of the Nazarite Samson, perhaps was designed as a rebuke to the people of Israel for their persistence in sin. The Lord did indeed empower Samson to perform amazing feats of strength to defeat and demoralize the Philistine oppressors. Sadly, however, Samson never demonstrated the kind of commitment to the Lord that his Nazarite vow suggested. He broke two, and probably all three, of the requirements for a Nazarite (cf. Judg. 14:8-10; 16:17-19). While Samson is named among the great men of faith in Hebrews 11:32, we realize his faith was balanced against his pride and sinful passion. He is a classic example of a believer who never accomplished what he could have. He possessed great strength but too often failed to depend on the strength of the Lord. His life is a warning to us to be sure we use the gifts the Lord has given us for His glory.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Situation (Judges 13:1)

The Sin – Evil in the sight of God (1)

Evil of bribery (Isa 5:22-23)

Evil of immorality (Hab 2:15-16)

Evil of gratifying the desires of the sinful nature (Rom 13:13-14)

Evil that will someday have to be accounted for (1 Peter 4:3-5)

The Consequences (1)

Consequences of God's pronouncement of punishment (Num 16:28-33)

Consequences of man's pronouncement of punishment (Dan 6:24)

Consequences of sharing the punishment of sin (Josh 7:20-24)

Consequences of not partaking of the good things of God (Jer 29:32)

God's Plan of Deliverance (Judges 13:2-7)

God's selection of barren parents (2-3)

Like Abram and Sarah (Gen 15:2-5)

Like Isaac and Rebekah (Gen 25:19-24)

Like Elkanah and Hannah (1 Sam 1:9-18)

Like Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:13-17)

God's sanctification for child (4-5)

Set apart for work (Acts 13:1-3)

Inwardly setting apart Jesus as Lord (1 Peter 3:15)

Sanctification through the Word for protection from Satan (John 17:14-19)

Sanctification through the power of God to be kept blameless (1 Thess 5:23)

Sanctification through the blood of Jesus for service (Heb 9:13-14)

Parent's obedience (6-7)

Obedience is better because it delights God (1 Sam 15:22)

Obedience leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16)

Obedience leads to the praise of God by others (2 Cor 9:13)

Obedience keeps me remaining in God's love (John 15:10)

Obedience leads to the reward of blessings (Deut. 28:1-6)

Obedience brings the reward of freedom (James 1:25)

Samson's Preparation (Judges 13:24-25)

Maturation (24)

Maturity through perseverance (Phil 3:9-14)

Maturity through relying on God (2 Tim 4:7-8)

Maturity through throwing off everything that hinders (Heb 12:1-2)

Maturity through seeking God's power (Rev 3:11-12)

Maturity through testing of faith (James 1:12)

Holy Spirit's influence (25)

The Holy Spirit is the power to obey God (Ezek 36:27)

The Holy Spirit provides spiritual life (Rom 8:11)

The Holy Spirit guides in truth (John 16:13)

The Holy Spirit teaches how to live (Gal 5:16)

The Holy Spirit is the conduit of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)