

Judges 13

JPS [\[Online\]](#)

The Birth of Samson

(Numbers 6:1–21)

¹And the children of Israel again did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

²And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bore not. ³And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her: 'Behold now, thou art barren, and hast not borne; but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

⁴Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing.

⁵For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come upon his head; for the child shall be a Nazirite unto God from the womb; and he shall begin to save Israel out of the hand of the

Philistines.' ⁶Then the woman came and told her husband, saying: 'A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of the angel of God, very terrible; and I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name; ⁷but he said unto me: Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing; for the child shall be a Nazirite unto God from the womb to the day of his death.'

⁸Then Manoah entreated the LORD, and said: 'Oh, LORD, I pray Thee, let the man of God whom Thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born.'⁹ And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. ¹⁰And the woman made haste, and ran, and told her husband, and said unto him: 'Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me that day.'¹¹ And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him: 'Art thou the man that spokedst unto the woman?' And he said: 'I am.'¹² And Manoah said: 'Now when thy word cometh to pass, what shall be the rule for the child, and what shall be done with him?' ¹³And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah: 'Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. ¹⁴She may not eat of any thing that cometh of the grapevine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing; all that I commanded her let her observe.'

¹⁵And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD: 'I pray thee, let us detain thee, that we may make ready a kid for thee.'¹⁶ And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah: 'Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread; and if thou wilt make ready a burnt-offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD.' For Manoah knew not that he was the angel of the LORD. ¹⁷And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD: 'What is thy name, that when thy words come to pass we may do thee honour?' ¹⁸And the angel of the LORD said unto him: 'Wherefore askest thou after my name, seeing it is hidden?' ¹⁹So Manoah took the kid with the meal-offering, and offered it upon the rock unto the LORD; and [the angel] did wondrously, and Manoah and his wife looked on. ²⁰For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar; and Manoah and his wife looked on; and they fell on their faces to the ground.

²¹But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah or to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD. ²²And Manoah said unto his wife: 'We shall surely die, because we have seen God.'²³ But his wife said unto him: 'If the LORD were pleased to kill us, He would not have received a burnt-offering and a meal-offering at our hand, neither would He have shown us all these things, nor would at this time have told such things as these.'

²⁴And the woman bore a son, and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. ²⁵And the spirit of the LORD began to move him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.