

Samson- The Savior Is Born!

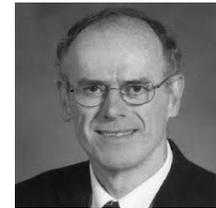
The book of Judges shows us that the Bible is not a “Book of Virtues;” it is not full of inspirational stories. Why? Because the Bible (unlike the books on which other religions are based) is not about following moral examples. It is about a God of mercy and long-suffering, who continually works in and through us despite our constant resistance to his purposes.

- Tim Keller



There is one danger. Samson is such a rollicking, entertaining, break-the-mold fellow that we may become preoccupied with him. We must not allow our focus on the savior God raises up to eclipse the God who saves.

- Dale Ralph Davis



Judges 1:1-15

And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.” Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome.

I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name, but he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’” Then Manoah prayed to the LORD and said, “O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born.” And God listened to the voice of Manoah,

and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field. But Manoah her husband was not with her. So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, “Behold, the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me.” And Manoah arose and went after his wife and came to the man and said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to this woman?” And he said, “I am.” And Manoah said, “Now when your words come true, what is to be the child’s manner of life, and what is his mission?”

And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe.” Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “Please let us detain you and prepare a young goat for you.” And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “If you detain me, I will not eat of your food.

But if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the LORD.” (For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the LORD.) And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?” And the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?” So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it on the rock to the LORD, to the one who works wonders,

and Manoah and his wife were watching. And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the LORD went up in the flame of the altar. Now Manoah and his wife were watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground. The angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD. And Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, for we have seen God.”

But his wife said to him, “If the LORD had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering at our hands, or shown us all these things, or now announced to us such things as these.” And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Judges 13:1

And the people of Israel **again** did what was evil **in the sight of the LORD**, so the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

Judges 17:6

In those days there was no king in Israel.
Everyone did what was right in his own
eyes.

Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel.
Everyone did what was right in his own
eyes.

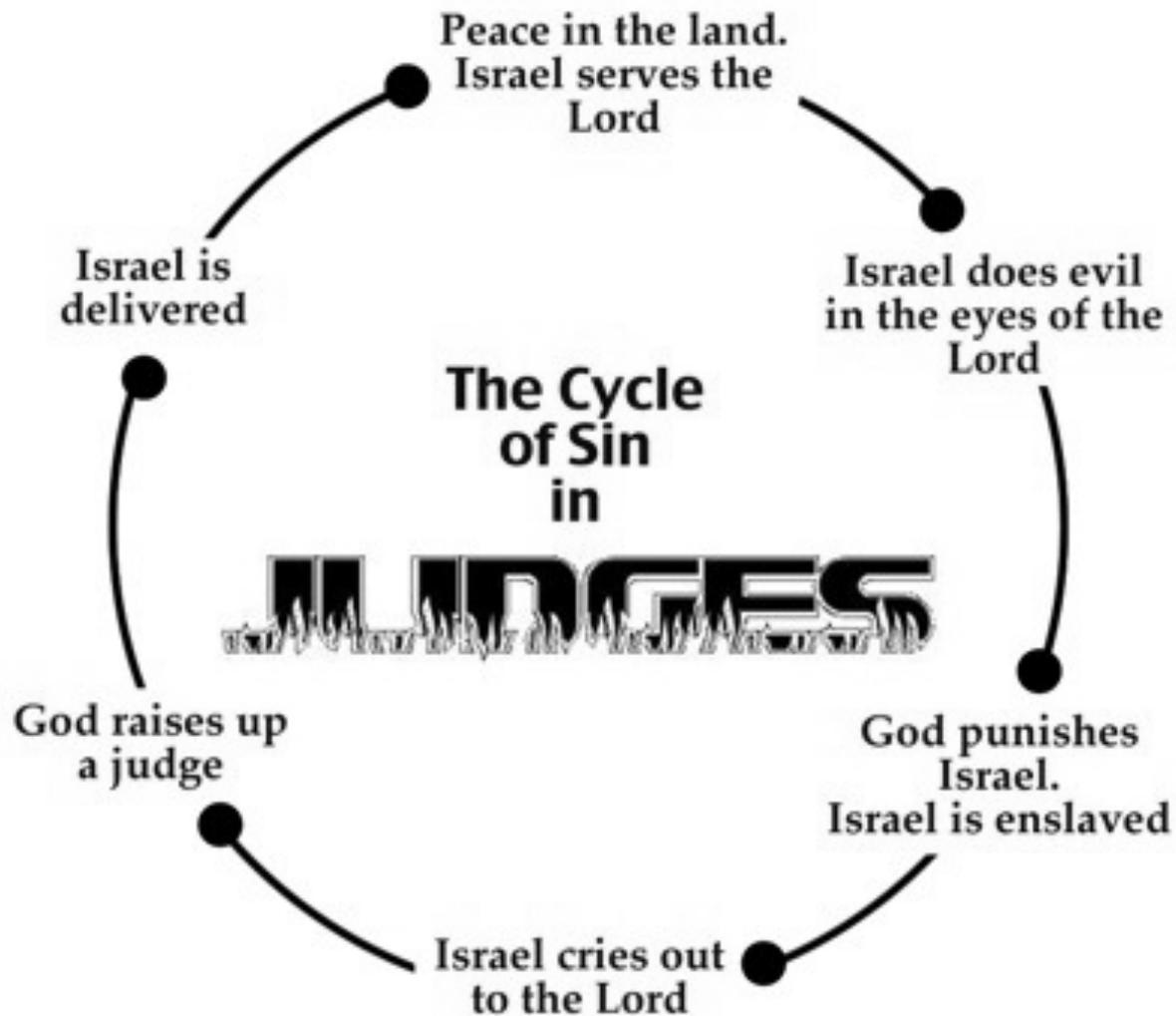
Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way to death.

This term “the eyes of the Lord,” in contrast with our “own eyes,” teaches us that sin does not ultimately consist of violating our conscience or violating our personal standards or violating community standards, but rather consists of violating God’s will for us. What God sees as sin is sin, regardless of what we feel or the experts say or what we agree on.

- Tim Keller





Judges 1:2

There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And **his wife was barren and had no children.**

And **the angel of the LORD** appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, **you are barren and have not borne children,** but **you shall conceive and bear a son.**”

Judges 13:3-5

Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a **Nazirite** to God from the womb, and **he shall begin to save Israel** from the hand of the Philistines.”

Numbers 6:1-5

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When either a man or a woman makes a **special vow**, the vow of a Nazirite, to **separate himself** to the LORD, he shall separate himself from wine and strong drink... All the days of his vow of separation, no razor shall touch his head. Until the time is completed for which he separates himself to the LORD, he shall be holy.

Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, **very awesome.**”

The Angel Of The Lord Consistently Speaks As God

The angel of the LORD also said to her, “I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.” Genesis 16:10

Now the angel of the LORD...said, “I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you.’” Judges 2:1

Judges 13:8-9

Then Manoah prayed to the LORD and said, “O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born.” **And God listened to the voice of Manoah,**

Judges 13:12

And Manoah said, “Now when your words come true, what is to be the child’s manner of life, and what is his mission?”

Remarkably, but graciously, God responds to Manoah's plea and dispatches his envoy back to earth. But neither Yahweh nor his emissary will be manipulated by the earthling. The time and place of his second visit are carefully planned. Instead of appearing to Manoah alone or even to both of them when they were together, as if to pour salt into the wounds of his pride the messenger comes to Manoah's wife while she is in the field alone.

- Daniel Block



Judges 13:13-16

And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe.” Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “Please let us detain you and prepare a young goat for you.” And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “If you detain me, I will not eat of your food.

Judges 13:16-19

But if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the LORD.” (For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the LORD.) And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?” And the angel of the LORD said to him, “**Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?**” So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it on the rock to the LORD, to **the one who works wonders,**

Judges 13:19-22

and Manoah and his wife were watching. And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the **angel of the LORD went up in the flame of the altar.** Now Manoah and his wife were watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground. The angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD. And Manoah said to his wife, “**We shall surely die, for we have seen God.**”

Judges 13:23-25

But his wife said to him, “If the LORD had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering at our hands, or shown us all these things, or now announced to us such things as these.” And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him. **And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him** in Mahanehdan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Yahweh didn't merely raise up a deliverer who was, as it were, already available; rather, he grew one- from scratch. It is crucial that we see this, lest we think Yahweh's salvation is always an ad hoc, Band-Aid affair, a piece of divine crisis management instead of a plan that He had in view far in advance.

- Dale Ralph Davis

