

## Judges 13

1. The beginning of the Samson narrative speaks of Israel's oppression under the Philistines. How long did they rule over the Israelite people? What brought on this divine discipline?
2. In verse 2, we meet a man and his wife. We are never told the woman's name but what is the man's name?

What tribe was this man from? What do we learn about his wife?

3. The Angel of the Lord appears in verse 3. This was seen as an Old Testament theophany (or appearance) of God. What does the Messenger announce to Manoah's wife in verse 3?
4. The angel says the boy shall be a Nazirite to God. A Nazirite (meaning "devoted" or "consecrated") was a person who made a vow of separation to God. What will be this child's name (v. 24)?

What does this divine Messenger say will be the child's purpose and calling (v.5)?

Since Samson is to be a Nazirite from the womb, who is to carry out parts of the Nazirite vow?

A Nazirite was not to touch a carcass or eat anything considered ceremonially unclean. He was also not to drink wine nor any alcoholic drink. What else was the Nazirite not to do? (v. 5)

5. How does Manoah's wife describe the Angel of the Lord to her husband in verse 6?
6. Manoah prayed for the reappearance of the angel of the Lord. The Messenger does come back but shows up first to Manoah's wife. This time Manoah's wife runs and gets her husband. When Manoah's shows up, what does he ask of the Angel of the Lord in verse 11 that indicates that he didn't fully realize the divine identity of this Guest?
7. Manoah is determined to take control of the situation and the conversation but the Angel of the Lord repeats His previous instructions (vv. 13-14). Manoah then invites the Angel to stick around for a meal. But what does He tell Manoah to do with the goat (v. 16)?
8. When Manoah asks for the divine Guest's name, what is His response in verse 18?
9. The Angel of the Lord then ascends in the flame that blazes up from the altar. Now Manoah finally realizes the identity of this divine Messenger. How do Manoah and his wife physically respond? What is Manoah's verbal response to this realization?
10. The woman gives birth to Samson "and the child grew up and the Lord blessed him". What do we read about him in the final verse of Judges 13?