

# THE BOOK OF JUDGES

ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

1380-1050 B.C.

JUDGES CHAPTER 13:1-25

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER’S USE”**

**LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD**

*ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES  
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATION*

## Part 1

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Consecration, Devotion, Dedication**

Introduction to the Text:

**Judges 13:1-25**

**Statement of Textual Summation and Theme**

A “Topical, Biographical Introduction to the Life of Samson”

“There is no Greater Pursuit available to man than to seek after, to discover, and to know God!”

### Philippians 3:7-10

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. :8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ :9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; :10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

### Judges 13:1-25

Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. :2 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah, and his wife was barren and had no children. :3 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her,

“Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. :4 Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean. :5 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.”** :6 So the woman came and told her husband, saying, “A **Man of God** came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of **the Angel of God**, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name. :7 And He said to me, “Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’ ”

:8 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, “O my Lord, please let **the Man of God** whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born.” :9 And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and **the Angel of God** came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. :10 Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, “Look, the Man who came to me the *other* day has just now appeared to me!” :11 So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, “Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?” And He said, “**I am.**” :12 Manoah said, “Now let Your words come *to pass!* What will be the boy’s rule of life, and his work?” :13 So **the Angel of the LORD** said to Manoah, “**Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. :14 She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe.**” :15 Then Manoah said to **the Angel of the LORD**, “Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You.” :16 And **the Angel of the LORD** said to Manoah, “**Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD.**” (For Manoah did not know **He was the Angel of the LORD.**) :17 Then Manoah said to **the Angel of the LORD**, “What *is* Your name, that when Your words come *to pass* we may honor You?” :18 And **the Angel of the LORD** said to him, “**Why do you ask My name, seeing it is Wonderful?**”

:19 So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And **He** did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on - :20 it happened that as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar—**the Angel of the LORD** ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw *this*, they fell on their faces to the ground. :21 When **the Angel of the LORD** appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that **He was the Angel of the LORD.** :22 And Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, because **we have seen God!**” :23 But his wife said to him, “If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these *things*, nor would He have told us *such things* as these at this time.” :24 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. :25 And **the Spirit of the LORD** began to move upon him at Ma-ha-neh Dan between Zor’ah and Esh-ta-ol.

## Lessons Learned from the Life of Samson

A Series on “The Consecration of the Believer”  
and What the Lord Desires to Do in the Lives of His People.

### The Man Samson: He’s The Last Judge of Israel.

He was a man who had been given a great start in life but had a difficult time with life -  
- in the end he died a regrettable life.

**He had parents that loved him and a God who had called him.**

A special ministry as a Nazirite had been ordained to him by the Lord,  
- - few in the Bible had a better start than Samson.

### TRAGICALLY,

Samson grew up a notoriously **undisciplined, unpredictable and unbridled** man.

His Life was a Living Parable,  
displaying the struggle between God’s will and Man’s desire.

## His life was a Graphic Contradiction

“He fought God’s battle’s by day, and disobeyed His commands by night.”  
The name Samson means “Sunny” or “Bright” yet He Died a Blind Man.

## STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER’S USE LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

### 1.) Lesson 1 - Consecration: What’s at stake?

#### Judges 13:1-3

Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. :2 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children. :3 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “**Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.**”

## CONSECRATION: WHAT’S AT STAKE

### 1a.) The continuation of a nation was at stake.

#### Like a broken record,

Israel had again departed from the Lord and drifted off into Paganism and into a Culture of Death.  
They had lost their God and thus themselves!

### *Israel is Absolutely*

**unique among the nations of the world in history and for the future.**

#### Genesis 10:21

And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of **Eber**,  
(root word of **Hebrew**).

#### Genesis 12:1

Now the LORD had said to **Abram**: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, **To a land that I will show you.**”

#### Genesis 12:2-5

I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. :3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” :4 ¶ So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. :5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.

## The Continuation of Israel (USA) was (is) at Stake.

(I argue tonight that the continuation of our nation is at stake)

### America's Tomorrow is America's Youth Today.

What they will value, defend, protect, and desire will become their culture.  
Their culture will become the American culture.

### America's In Trouble

Our Educational System is Intentionally Going About Revising American History. Instead of teaching about in-depth World History, American history and Culture, we've featured and embraced other cultures in the name of "diversity". America has invented "the separation of church and state" but the USA would never allow the separation between "mosque and state"; that would be intolerant. We have walked away from the One true God of the Bible.

The United States of America spends more money per student per year than any other country in the world, with ever decreasing results.

Rather than focusing on reading, writing and arithmetic, we're allowing our kids to be indoctrinated in homosexual lifestyles and practices.

Our kids fail to out-perform European students the same age and grade in engineering, geography and chemistry, but our kids know how to wear a CONdom, to recycle, and to be P.C.

You can never produce statesmen that way. You cannot produce achievers in such a system...

## CONSECRATION: WHAT'S AT STAKE

### 1b.) The freedom of a people was at stake.

:1b And the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

### There The Philistines Resided

(It was while under Joshua's Command, that Israel failed to remove them), and throughout history, the Philistines have controlled the area's of Ashdod, Ekron, Gath, Ashkelon, and **Gaza**.

### In one of Yasser Arafat's speeches, he said,

*"this land belongs to us, it has always belonged to us since the daysof the Philistines it has belonged to us."*

One of his advisors told him, *don't say that again, because in the Hebrew Bible, the God of the Jews said to remove all the Philistines – don't remind them."*

**But What was at Stake was the People of God.**

They had become their worst enemy. Remarkably, nowhere do we read that while Israel was under the control of the Philistines, did they cry out to the Lord or seek the Lord for help.

## We Can Get “Disengaged” from our Heritage, and wind up settling to live among those who don’t know the Lord.

### Deuteronomy 6:6-13

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. :7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. :8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. :9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. :10 “So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, :11 houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full— :12 *then* beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. :13 You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him,

## I Fear America is Separated from the Lord

*In Benjamin Franklin's 1749 outline of education for public schools for Pennsylvania, he insisted that schools teach **“the necessity of a public religion . . . and the excellency of the Christian religion above all others, ancient or modern.”** Franklin was the chief promoter behind the establishment of paid chaplains in Congress. As founder in 1787 of the college that bore his name, Franklin dedicated the school as **“a nursery of religion and learning” built “on Christ, the Corner-Stone.”***

*George Washington, in his speech of May 12, 1779, he claimed that what children needed to learn **“above all” is the “religion of Jesus Christ,”** and that to learn this would make **them “greater and happier than they already are”**; on May 2, 1778, he charged his soldiers at Valley Forge that **“To the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian”**; and when he resigned his commission as commander-in-chief of the military on June 8, 1783, he reminded the nation that **“without a humble imitation” of “the Divine Author of our blessed religion” we “can never hope to be a happy nation.”** Washington's own adopted daughter declared of Washington that, **“you might as well question his patriotism as to question his Christianity.”***

## STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER’S USE LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

### 2.) Lesson 2 - Consecration: Having ears to hear.

## CONSECRATION: HAVING EARS TO HEAR

### 2a.) That the Lord is speaking.

**The Lord has never left his people alone,**  
silent at times, seemingly distant, he has never left...

**Hebrews 1:1-3**

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, :2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; :3 who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

**John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

## **But What Did He Speak?**

“The Kingdom of God is at Hand”

## **Jesus, The Eternal Son of God is Speaking Today,**

and when He speaks, He speaks using the Word of God  
because He is the manifested Word to mankind.

## **Manoah and his Wife Experienced a Theophanous**

Here, the Lord appears to them as He often did in the Old Testament.  
A Theophanous, is an Appearance of The Son of God, Pre-Incarnate.

This is Jesus, The Eternal Son of God.

:17 Then Manoah said to **the Angel of the LORD**, “What *is* Your name, that when Your words come *to pass* we may honor You?” :18 And the **Angel of the LORD** said to him, “Why do you ask My name, seeing it *is* **Wonderful**?”

:21 When **the Angel of the LORD** appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He *was* **the Angel of the LORD**. :22 And Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, because **we have seen God!**”

## **Jesus Christ is Still Speaking to His Church**

**Isaiah 9:6**

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called **Wonderful**

**Wonderful pele}**, peh'-leh; beyond comprehension, difficult, marvelous, hidden, secret, amazing, used only to describe the person and nature of God.

## **CONSECRATION: HAVING EARS TO HEAR**

**2b.) What the Lord is saying.**

:13 So the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah,  
"Of all that I said to the woman let her **be careful**."

**Matthew 7:24-27**

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: :25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. :26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: :27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

## STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER'S USE LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

### 3.) Lesson 3 - Consecration: **Being where He is.**

### CONSECRATION: BEING WHERE HE IS

#### 3a.) Is where we are

:2 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children.

Isn't it Interesting that the Lord often appeared to Childless women in The Bible?

**Why?**

He's Merciful, Kind, Gentle, Compassionate,  
but they were broken and desperate.

**Psalm 51:17**

The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart - These, O God, You will not despise.

### The Lord is Near You Tonight !

**Psalm 34:18-19**

The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. :19  
Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

### CONSECRATION: BEING WHERE HE IS

#### 3b.) We want all of Him.

:8 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, "O my Lord, please let **the Man of God** whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born." :9 And God

listened to the voice of Manoah, and **the Angel of God** came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. :10 Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, "Look, the Man who came to me the *other* day has just now appeared to me!" :11 So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, "**Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?**" And He said, "**I am.**"

## What is it about The LORD himself – that is so Attractive?

### The Common People of Matthew 9:9-10

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. :10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, **that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him** and His disciples...

## But Why?

If You Were To See Him, Hear Him – You Would Never Want to Leave Him.

### King David in Psalm 27:4

One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

### The Demonic in Luke 8:38

Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him.

**There is no greater place to be than to be where the Lord is at work.**

Until we are Hungry for Him – we will be missing what He has for us.

**What I'm About to Say, no **Jehovah Witness** Can Say.  
What I'm About to Say, no **Mormon** Can Say.  
What I'm About to Say, no **Buddhist** Can Say.  
What I'm About to Say, no **Muslim** Can Say.**

### 2 Corinthians 5:5-6

Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. :6 So we **are always confident**, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.

### Philippians 1:21-23

For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. :22 But if I live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. :23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better.



# STAYING FIT FOR THE MASTER'S USE

## LESSONS IN KNOWING GOD

### 4.) Lesson 4 - Consecration: Obeying Him.

Samson's parents were dedicated and devoted to the will of God.  
Israel was Pagan, far from the Lord but These two had a Heart for the Lord...

## CONSECRATION: OBEYING HIM

### 4a.) By determining to follow the Lord.

It's Hard for Us to Come to Grips  
with the fact that we are not on earth to live for ourselves.

In God's Infinite Wisdom and Knowledge  
He created you, at this time of human history, for this age.

:14 **She** may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean. **All that I commanded her let her observe.**"

**!!! But To Come to The Place of Decision !!!**

that I will now follow the Lord

## CONSECRATION: OBEYING HIM

### 4b.) By dedicating yourself to the Lord.

:20 it happened that as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar—the **Angel of the LORD** ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw *this*, they fell on their faces to the ground. :21 When the **Angel of the LORD** appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the **Angel of the LORD**. :22 And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because **we have seen God!**" :23 ¶ But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these *things*, nor would He have told us *such things* as these at this time." :24 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. :25 And the **Spirit of the LORD** began to move upon him at Ma-ha-neh Dan between Zor'ah and Esh-ta-ol.

**What were the qualifications of Manoah and his wife;  
that they might have such an encounter with God ?**

Their Hearts Were "**Willing**" Before the Lord

### **Romans 12:1-2**

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? **:2** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.

————— *End of Study* —————