Murray Baptist Church – 12/8/20 – Bible Study Outline – Judges

**Judges 13 – Introduction of Sampson, the 12th and Final Judge of Israel**

The number twelve from a biblical perspective is

* The number of divine government (12 Tribes of Israel; 12 Apostles; 12 gates and 12 foundations in the New Jerusalem)

Key Characters: Manoah; Manoah’s faithful unnamed wife; The Lord/The Angel of the Lord; The Philistines

V.1 – Common pattern of behavior for the Israelites – “did evil in the sight of the Lord”

* Consequence - Israelites delivered into the hands of the Philistines. From Joshua to David the Philistines will be an ongoing enemy.

Vs. 2-5 – Documents the plight of a family and the plight of a people and among them God gives a promise

* Manoah was married to a woman who was childless and unable to give birth. Her need was to deliver (v.2). She is restricted physically. The Israelites are restricted geographically.
* The Israelites were in bondage – their need was to be delivered (v.5)
* Compare vs. 3-5 with Luke 1:15

The Angel of the Lord/ The Lord / The Presence of the Lord – appears. Where the presence of the Lord is – there is movement/action

* The Angel of the Lord appears
* God sees the pain but gives a promise (v3)
* Parent’s part / Samson’s part –
  + No strong or fermented drinks, no unclean food
  + Head should never be shaved
* God’s part –
  + Samson dedicated from the womb
  + Samson will take the lead in delivering Israel from the Philistines

Vs. 6-7 Manoah’s Wifes Perspective of the Angelis encounter

* A man of God came, like an angel of God, awesome
* I don’t know where he was from nor did he give me a name, (implied: but I **know** who I met)
* I’ll get pregnant and have a son
* Manoah’s wife says I won’t drink strong drinks or eat anything unclean
* My son will be a Nazirite of God from the womb and for life

Vs. 8-14 – Manoah wants his own clarity – I’d like more…details

* V.8 - Manoah prays for another interaction with the angel – he wants direction on how to raise up their future son.
* He wants to hear the instruction himself
* Vs. 9 -11 The angel returns but to Manoah’s wife, and Manoah has to follow his wife to see the angel. Lesson: sometimes you have to follow until you are equipped to lead. Don’t be upset that you didn’t get a revelation from God, follow the revelation of another until you get your own or until the other’s revelation fails to line up with God’s movement.
* V.12-14 - When Manoah asks for direction about his son, the angle reminds him to do what he told his wife. Lesson: what our children become starts with the foundation and their destiny starts with the parents. Lesson: We want God’s grand plan complete with all instructions so that we can’t be blamed. God offers day by day instructions. He’s not worried concerned about blame. God interested in developing another five-letter word in our lives – trust.

Vs. 15-21 - Recognizing you are in God’s presence can take a while

* Vs. 15-16 - Manoah offers hospitality common at this time. Hosts didn’t know how long it would be before guests would eat again but Manoah doesn’t yet realize he is in the presence of God’s representative.
* Vs.17-18 Manoah asks the questions he wanted to know from the beginning. – What’s your name so we can honor you when your word comes true. The angel responds that Manoah won’t be able to comprehend it.
* Vs. 19-21 – Manoah and his wife recognize they were interacting with an angel of the Lord. They recognized them as much by what they didn’t see as what they did see.
* The angel came as an ordinary person – Christ came as an ordinary person but also a servant

Vs. 22-25 – Do you Fear or Reverence God

* Manoah feared, Manoah’s wife reverence. Fear leads to moving away from God. Reverence leads to worship or getting closer to God. Do you fear or reverence God? Why?
  + Manoah – we are doomed to die, because we’ve seen God
  + Manoah’s wife – If God wanted to kill us why did he accept our burnt offering and shown us his promise?
* Manoah’s wife delivered Sampson. He grew and the Lord blessed him. Compare to Luke 2:52 (Jesus); 1 Samuel 2:21 (Samuel)
* And God’s Spirit began to stir in Sampson. Sampson would now begin to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines.

For Further Study

1. Look at Judges 6:11-24 and Exodus 3:1-14, and list the similarities and differences between the two accounts. What do they teach us about God?
2. What does Numbers 6:1-21 tell us about the purpose and requirements of a Nazirite vow?
3. Spend some time considering your prayer life. Is it centered on your own needs and the practicalities of day-to-day living? How can it be more God-centered?