### Judges

## Chapter 13

1But then, the sons of IsraEl started sinning against Jehovah again; so He handed them over to the Philistines for the next 40 years. 2Well, during that time, a man [from the town of] Well, during that time, a man [from the town of] <span class="placename">SaraAhWell, during that time, a man [from the town of] <span class="placename">SaraAh</span> named ManoEh (of the family of Dan) who had a woman who hadn’t given birth to any sons 3was approached by a messenger from Jehovah, that said to her:  
  
 ‘I see that you have never given birth to a son.  
  
 4‘Now, you must be very careful not to drink any wine or liquor, or to eat anything that’s unclean... 5For {Look!} you’re now pregnant and you’ll give birth to a son, upon whose head an iron [razor] may never [be used].  
  
 ‘This child will be dedicated to God, a Nazarite, from the time that he’s born, and he will start saving IsraEl from the hands of the Philistines.’  
  
6Well at that, the woman went back inside and said this to her husband:  
  
 ‘A man of God just came to me who looked very impressive… Like a messenger of God. So, I didn’t dare to ask him where he came from, and he didn’t tell me his name.  
  
 7‘But he said to me:  
  
 ‘{Look!} You’re now pregnant and you’ll give birth to a son, upon whose head an iron [razor] may never [be used]. This child will be dedicated to God, a Nazarite, from the day he’s born until the day that he dies.’  
  
8So ManoEh prayed to Jehovah and said:  
  
 ‘I wish to beg You, O Jehovah my Lord, concerning the man of God who you just sent. Let him come to us once again and teach us what we must do concerning this child that’s to be boon soon.’  
  
9Well, Jehovah listened to the voice of ManoEh and He sent His messenger to the woman again. But at the time, she was sitting in a field… ManoEh (her man) wasn’t with her.  
  
10So she ran home and said:  
  
 ‘Look! The man who came the other day has appeared to me again!’  
  
11Then ManoEh got up and followed his woman, and when they got to him, ManoEh asked:  
  
 ‘Are you the person who spoke to my woman?’  
  
And the messenger replied:  
  
 ‘I am.’  
  
12Then ManoEh said:  
  
 ‘May [your] words come to pass… But tell us how we must raise the child and how we must deal with him.’  
  
13And the messenger of Jehovah said to ManoEh:  
  
 ‘Your woman will remember all that I’ve told her…  
  
 14‘She must not eat anything that comes from the vine, or drink any wine or liqueur, or eat anything that’s unclean… She must follow all of these [instructions] that I’ve given to her.’  
  
15Then ManoEh said to the messenger of Jehovah:  
  
 ‘Please stay here for a while and let us prepare a young goat as a meal for you.’  
  
16And the messenger of Jehovah said to ManoEh:  
  
 ‘If you want me to stay, I won’t eat your bread.  
  
 ‘But if you wish to sacrifice a whole burnt offering to Jehovah, you should do it.’  
  
Well, because ManoEh didn’t realize that [this person] was really a messenger [from God], he said:  
  
 17‘Tell us your name, so that when your words come true, we can come to you and bow before you.’  
  
18And the messenger of Jehovah replied:  
  
 ‘Why do you ask my name? It’s just too wonderful.’  
  
19So ManoEh then took a kid goat along with its grain offering, and he offered it to Jehovah on a rock. And that’s when the messenger did something that was very unusual, as ManoEh and his woman looked on...  
  
20Suddenly, the flames on the altar rose high into the sky, and the messenger of Jehovah flew away in the flames!  
  
And when ManoEh and his woman saw this, they both fell with their faces to the ground.  
  
21Well, the messenger never appeared to ManoEh and his woman again. But after ManoEh realized that it was a messenger of Jehovah, 22he said to his woman:  
  
 ‘We’re going to die, because we’ve seen God!’  
  
23However, his woman replied:  
  
 ‘If Jehovah wanted to kill us, He wouldn’t have accepted our whole burnt offering and food offering, nor would He have revealed and let us hear all these things.’  
  
24Well thereafter, the woman did give birth to a son whom she named Samson – and Jehovah blest him as he grew. 25For the Breath of Jehovah entered him there in the camp of Dan between [the towns of] For the Breath of Jehovah entered him there in the camp of Dan between [the towns of] <span class="placename">SaraAhFor the Breath of Jehovah entered him there in the camp of Dan between [the towns of] <span class="placename">SaraAh</span> and For the Breath of Jehovah entered him there in the camp of Dan between [the towns of] <span class="placename">SaraAh</span> and <span class="placename">EsthaOlFor the Breath of Jehovah entered him there in the camp of Dan between [the towns of] <span class="placename">SaraAh</span> and <span class="placename">EsthaOl</span>.