

~MANOAH (221)
(Ma-no'ah)

- **A Danite man of the Shephelah town of Zorah.**
- **In the Shephelah there were Eshtaol and Zorah and Ashnah. (Joshua 15:33)**
- **And the father of Judge Samson. **Manoah** was a devout worshiper of Yehowah.**
- **One day an angel appeared to **Manoah's** barren wife, announcing that she would give birth to a son who would be a Nazirite of God. Upon being informed of this, **Manoah** supplicated Yehowah, asking him to send the messenger again in order to instruct them on raising the child.**
- **Yehowah answered the prayer and sent the angel a second time. When **Manoah** offered to set a meal before the messenger, he was told to render up a burnt offering to Yehowah instead, which he did. It was after this messenger ascended in the flame rising from the altar that **Manoah** recognized him as being Yehowah's angel.**
- **Because of having had this experience, **Manoah** feared that he and his wife would die. But she allayed his fear, saying; If Yehowah had been delighted only to put us to death, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering from our hand, and he would not have shown us all these things, and he would not as now have let us hear anything like this.**
- **Meanwhile there happened to be a certain man of Zorah of the family of the Danites, and his name was **Manoah**. And his wife was barren and had borne no child. (Judges 13:2)**
- **In time Yehowah's angel appeared to the woman and said to her; Look, now, you are barren and have borne no child. And you will certainly become pregnant and give birth to a son. (Judges 13:3)**
- **And now watch yourself, please, and do not drink wine or intoxicating liquor, and do not eat anything unclean. (Judges 13:4)**

- For, look! You will be pregnant, and you will certainly give birth to a son, and no razor should come upon his head, because a Nazirite of God is what the child will become on leaving the belly, and he it is who will take the lead in saving Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. (**Judges 13:5**)
- Then the woman went and said to her husband; There was a man of the true God that came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of the true God, very fear-inspiring. And I did not ask him from just where he was, neither did he tell me his name. (**Judges 13:6**)
- But he said to me, Look! You will be pregnant, and you will certainly give birth to a son. And now do not drink wine or intoxicating liquor, and do not eat any unclean thing, because a Nazirite of God is what the child will become on leaving the belly until the day of his death. (**Judges 13:7**)
- And **Manoah** began to entreat Yehowah and say; Excuse me, Yehowah. The man of the true God that you just sent, let him, please, come again to us and instruct us as to what we ought to do to the child that will be born. (**Judges 13:8**)
- Accordingly the true God listened to the voice of **Manoah**, and the angel of the true God came again to the woman while she was sitting in the field, and **Manoah** her husband was not with her. (**Judges 13:9**)
- Immediately the woman hurried and ran and told her husband and said to him; Look! The man that came the other day to me has appeared to me. (**Judges 13:10**)
- At that **Manoah** got up and accompanied his wife and came to the man and said to him; Are you the man that spoke to the woman? To which he said; I am. (**Judges 13:11**)
- Then **Manoah** said; Now let your words come true. What will become the child's mode of life and his work? (**Judges 13:12**)
- So Yehowah's angel said to **Manoah**; From everything that I mentioned to the woman she should keep herself. (**Judges 13:13**)
- Nothing at all that comes forth from the wine vine should she

eat, and no wine or intoxicating liquor let her drink, and no unclean thing of any sort let her eat. Everything that I have commanded her let her keep. (**Judges 13:14**)

- **Manoah** now said to Yehowah's angel; Let us, please, detain you and fix up a kid of the goats before you. (**Judges 13:15**)
- But Yehowah's angel said to **Manoah**; If you detain me, I shall not feed myself on your bread, but if you will render up a burnt offering to Yehowah, you may offer it up. For Manoah did not know that he was Yehowah's angel. (**Judges 13:16**)
- Then **Manoah** said to Yehowah's angel; What is your name, that when your word comes true we shall certainly do you honor? (**Judges 13:17**)
- However, Yehowah's angel said to him; Just why should you ask about my name, when it is a wonderful one? (**Judges 13:18**)
- And **Manoah** proceeded to take the kid of the goats and the grain offering and to offer it upon the rock to Yehowah. And He was doing something in a wonderful way while Manoah and his wife were looking on. (**Judges 13:19**)
- So it came about that, as the flame ascended from off the altar heavenward, then Yehowah's angel ascended in the flame of the altar while **Manoah** and his wife were looking on. At once they fell upon their faces to the earth. (**Judges 13:20**)
- And Yehowah's angel did not repeat appearing to **Manoah** and his wife anymore. Then it was that Manoah knew that he had been Yehowah's angel. (**Judges 13:21**)
- Consequently **Manoah** said to his wife; We shall positively die, because it is God that we have seen. (**Judges 13:22**)
- But his wife said to him; If Yehowah had been delighted only to put us to death, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering from our hand, and he would not have shown us all these things, and he would not as now have let us hear anything like this. (**Judges 13:23**)

- Years later, **Manoah** and his wife, not knowing that it was from Yehowah, objected to Samson's desire to marry a Philistine woman of Timnah.
- Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. (**Judges 14:1**)
- So he went up and told his father and his mother and said; There is a woman that I have seen in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines, and now get her for me as a wife. (**Judges 14:2**)
- But his father and his mother said to him; Is there not among the daughters of your brothers and among all my people a woman, so that you are going to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines? Still Samson said to his father; Get just her for me, because she is the one just right in my eyes. (**Judges 14:3**)
- As for his father and his mother, they did not know that that was from Yehowah, that he was looking for an opportunity against the Philistines, as at that particular time the Philistines were ruling over Israel. (**Judges 14:4**)
- And you must form no marriage alliance with them. Your daughter you must not give to his son, and his daughter you must not take for your son. (**Deuteronomy 7:3**)
- For he will turn your son from following me, and they will certainly serve other gods, and Yehowah's anger will indeed blaze against you, and he will certainly annihilate you in a hurry. (**Deuteronomy 7:4**)
- Subsequently **Manoah** and his wife accompanied Samson to Timnah, although not going with him as far as the home of the Philistine woman. Therefore they did not witness Samson's killing a young lion with his bare hands.
- On another occasion Samson, intending to take the Philistine woman to his home, again went with his parents to Timnah. He turned aside to inspect the corpse of the lion that he had slain earlier and found a swarm of bees and honey inside.
- Upon rejoining his parents, he offered them some of the honey that he had scraped out of the lions corpse, and they ate it. Thereafter

the family apparently continued on their way, and doubtless both parents were present at the banquet arranged by Samson at Timnah.

- **Accordingly Samson went on down with his father and his mother to Timnah. When he got as far as the vineyards of Timnah, why, look! A maned young lion roaring upon meeting him. (Judges 14:5)**
- **Then Yehowah's spirit became operative upon him, so that he tore it in two, just as someone tears a male kid in two, and there was nothing at all in his hand. And he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. (Judges 14:6)**
- **And he continued on his way down and began to speak to the woman, and she was still right in Samson's eyes. (Judges 14:7)**
- **Now after a while he went on back to take her home. Meantime he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion, and there, there was a swarm of bees in the lions corpse, and honey. (Judges 14:8)**
- **So he scraped it out into his palms and walked on, eating as he walked. When he rejoined his father and his mother, he at once gave them some, and they began to eat. And he did not tell them that it was out of the corpse of the lion that he had scraped the honey. (Judges 14:9)**
- **And his father continued on his way down to the woman, and Samson proceeded to hold a banquet there, for that was the way the young fellows used to do. (Judges 14:10)**
- **Manoah preceded his son in death, for Samson was buried in the burial place of Manoah between Zorah and Eshtaol.**
- **Later his brothers and all the household of his father came on down and lifted him up and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the burial place of Manoah his father. As for him, he had judged Israel twenty years. (Judges 16:31)**