

**Power Hour Lesson Summary for June 25, 2017**

**“Samson”**

**Lesson Text:** Judges 13:1-7, 24, 25

**Background Scripture:** Judges 13-16

**Devotional Reading:** Judges 13:19-23

**Judges 13:1-7, 24, 25 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.

<sup>2</sup> A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. <sup>3</sup> The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, “You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. <sup>4</sup> Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. <sup>5</sup> You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”

<sup>6</sup> Then the woman went to her husband and told him, “A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God, very awesome. I didn’t ask him where he came from, and he didn’t tell me his name. <sup>7</sup> But he said to me, ‘You will become pregnant and have a son. Now then, drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite of God from the womb until the day of his death.’”

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<sup>24</sup> The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the LORD blessed him, <sup>25</sup> and the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

**TODAY’S LESSON AIMS**

**Learning Fact:** To list factors and conditions intended to shape Samson’s spiritual development.

**Biblical Principle:** To evaluate how expectations may have shaped Samson’s attitudes and actions as he grew up.

**Daily Application:** To reflect on parental or community expectations that have shaped your life in a positive way.

**INTRODUCTION**

**Childhood Memories**

When you reflect on your childhood, what memories come to mind? Is it that family outing to the beach during which you were first taught to swim? Is it the aroma of your favorite meal being lovingly prepared? Is it a favorite family tradition that was always practiced during holiday times?

But maybe it is a curfew that you had to follow that was an hour earlier than the curfew of your friends. Perhaps it is your parents’ insistence that you not go to a movie that everyone was talking about, because it celebrated ungodly behavior. Possibly it is going to church every Sunday, even when you didn’t *want* to!

Good parents make a real difference in the lives of children. Some parental actions are pleasant and affirming. But some will seem unpleasant and even unreasonable in the mind of a child. Yet both are necessary to bring a youngster to maturity. This lesson concludes our look at some famous judges of Israel, not by looking at the judge himself, but at this judge's parents.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

**Time:** 1050 B.C.

**Place:** Zorah

This is the last of the studies on four delivering judges in the book of Judges, the seventh book of the Old Testament. There were two other major judges (Othniel and Ehud) and six judges who seem only to have served as magistrates in different parts of Israel.

In the previous lesson Jephthah defeated the Ammonites that had oppressed the central portions of the land for 18 years. Judges 12 gives the details on another problem that confronted Jephthah: Ephraimites from the western side of the Jordan came to complain that he had not called them when he led the battle against the Ammonites. Jephthah's reply was that he had called them and they had not come (Judges 12:2, 3). It could be surmised that after Jephthah's situation with his daughter, he did not feel like trying to appease men who wait until the battle is over before they choose sides.

The outcome was a battle between two groups of Israelites. Jephthah and his Gileadites defeated the Ephraimites from the western side of the Jordan (toward the Mediterranean Sea).

As the Ephraimites retreated, Jephthah's men gained control of the fords where the Ephraimites would cross the Jordan River. Each Ephraimite who attempted to cross the Jordan was asked to say a certain word. Anyone who pronounced the word a certain way was recognized as being an Ephraimite and therefore executed (Judges 12:6). Tribes had conquered the promised land some 300 years previously (11:26), which provided time for regional dialects to develop.

The last verses of Judges 12 give basic facts of three men who seem to have served only as magistrates in their areas: one in the south, one in the north, and one in the middle section of Israel.

### What Do You Think?

- What are some things we can do to resist joining the larger culture in its pursuit of evil?
- What practices can help us remember the divine source of all our strength today?

## CONCLUSION

### Parenting Manual

In 1946, Dr. Benjamin Spock published *The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*. For more than half a century, this book was a consistent best seller, selling more than 50 million copies and being translated into about 40 languages. Mothers were encouraged by a basic message: *you know more than you think you do!*



Samson's parents lived well before Dr. Spock. They received direction, not from a popular author, but from God himself. Child-rearing experts have some value, but we can encourage parents to this day with the words of God, who knows more than all of us combined!

### **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, and Almighty God, as Samson had a way to serve, give me strength to fulfill my place in God's kingdom in the different segments of my life, and always in a way that is pleasing to You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **THOUGHT TO REMEMBER**

It is never too late to offer a prayer of thanks for godly parents.

### **ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON**

Next week's lesson is "**Moses,**" and describes God's call of Moses and the reassurance of His presence after Moses' reluctance to assume the leadership role. Study Exodus 3:1-22.