

The Birth of Samson

Judges 13

by Don Falkos

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During the time when the Philistines ruled over Israel, there was a man from the tribe of Dan whose wife was not able to have children. One day the angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, "You are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. Until then, do not drink alcohol of any kind, or eat any food that does not comply with the Law of Moses, for your son is to be subject to the vows of a Nazirite from the very moment of his birth. His hair is never to be cut. He will be set apart for service to God. He will set in motion Israel's deliverance from the Philistines."

The woman told her husband what had happened. He prayed, "Oh, Lord, let the man of God come back and teach us how to raise this boy you are giving us."

The angel of the Lord came again to the woman when she was out in the field alone. She ran to her husband and said, "He's here! The man who spoke with me the other day." She led him to where the angel of the Lord was waiting. But they didn't realize they were seeing an angel.

The angel told the man to present a burnt offering to the Lord. He prepared a young goat and sacrificed it on a rock. As the fire from the sacrifice blazed up toward heaven, the angel ascended in the flames. The man and his wife fell to the ground in terror.

He cried out, "We are doomed! We have seen God!"

But his wife replied, "No. We're not going to die. The Lord has accepted our burnt offering. And we are going to have a son."

In due time, the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson. He grew up, and the Spirit of the Lord took hold of him.