

An Angel Brings a Heavenly Message Judges 13

Dear Girls and Boys,

When we read about the work that angels do, there are many surprising things that happen. In this story an angel appears twice to bring wonderful news and leaves by stepping into a blazing fire built on an altar to God.

This happened to a good man named Manoah and his faithful wife. They lived in Israel during a time when the country was under constant war with a nation called the Philistines. Manoah and his wife were very sad because they could not have any children. They constantly prayed to God about having a baby.

One day as the wife was alone, an amazing stranger appeared to her and told her, “Now you can’t have children, but soon you will have a son. Do not drink any wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean foods, for this child is special. As a sign that he is special, you must never cut his hair. He shall begin to deliver this nation of Israel from their enemies, the Philistines.” (That meant he was to be a leader in their country when he grew up.)

When she told her husband about this amazing message, She said, “a man of God came to me, and his face was like the face of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not who he was, and he did not tell me his name. “

Then Manoah went and begged God in prayer to let him meet this heavenly messenger and learn also what they should do in raising the baby that would be born. And God listened to his prayers and sent the angel again.

The angel came when his wife was sitting outside in the field. She quickly hurried and called her husband. Manoah asked the messenger, “Are you the man of God that spoke to my wife?”

The angel replied, “I am.”

And Manoah spoke saying, “Let everything you said happen. Tell us, how shall we raise him? “

And the angel of the Lord replied, “ Have your wife be careful. She may not eat of anything that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, not eat any unclean thing: All that I commanded her let her observe.”

Manoah answered, “Please, will you wait while we take a kid (young goat) kill it as an offering and say prayers too?”

The angle told Manoah, “Though you want me to stay, I will not eat your bread, and if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it not to me, but to the Lord.”

Since Manoah did not know he was talking to an actual angel, he said, “What is you name so that when these things happen, we can praise you?”

The angel’s answer must have puzzled then, because he said, “Why are you asking my name which is secret?”

Manoah never answered, but took the meat offering and placed it on a rock in the fire while he prayed to God. To the shock of both husband and wife, when the fire flamed high towards heaven, the angel stepped into the blaze and rose to the heavens out of sight!

Both Manoah and his wife fell on their faces to the ground. Manoah exclaimed in fear, “We shall surely die because we’ve seen God!”

“No!” said his wife. If we were going to die, God wouldn’t have accepted our burnt offering, or showed us this angel or told us these things.” She was right.

They never saw the angel again, and all went well. After a time, Manoah’s wife became pregnant, and she was careful to do all the things the angel had instructed her to do. They called their beautiful baby boy, Samsosn.

As he grew, his family kept his hair uncut as a sign he was set aside by God. At times the spirit of God moved in him. As he grew, people were astounded by the awesome strength he possessed, a strength God planned to use in his own time to free the nation of Israel from their enemies, the Philistines. Everything that the angel told them came true!

Love,
Sister Jan