

Judges 12,13

1-3 Jephthah won victory over Israel's oppressor Ammon & tribe of Ephraim is jealous, they wanted the glory **S of S 8:6.... Jealousy is as severe as Sheol/grave/death; Its flashes are flashes of fire, The very flame of the LORD.** So they threaten Jephthah as they did Gideon **8:1**. Seems they want personal attention & are willing to die for it. **Pr 6:34 Jealousy enrages a man and he will not spare in the day of vengeance.**

4) Jacob the father of Ephraim and Manasseh when blessing the first born crossed hands giving Ephraim the first born blessing **indicating power, position and prosperity** instead of Manasseh. Now Manasseh is victorious over Israel's enemy & Ephraim feels slighted **Pride only breeds quarrels, but with ones who take advice is wisdom.pr 13:10**

In God's mind He had a future for Ephraim **(in God's providence why Jacob crossed hands)** but the Ephraimites couldn't wait—In years to come when kingdom divided Jeroboam of tribe Ephraim to be king & lead the northern kingdom of Israel w/ potential future blessings **1Kings 11:37 'And I will take you, and you shall reign over whatever you desire, and you shall be king over Israel. 38 'Then it will be, that if you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight by observing My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.**

The me of Ephraim slander Jephthah MH paraphrase **"You Gileadites that dwell here on the other side Jordan are but fugitives of Ephraim, the scum and dregs of the tribes of Joseph, of which Ephraim is the chief, the refuse of the family, and are so accounted among the Ephraimites and among the Manassites. Who cares for you? All your neighbours know what you are, no better than fugitives and vagabonds, separated from your brethren, and driven hither into a corner."** Pr 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

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5-7 Was it overkill of those trying to flee to their own land? *Anger of man not achieve righteousness of God.* Jealousy and strife of a few cause the death of many. *A house divide cannot stand* Pronunciation gave them away ***Matt 26:73 surely you are one of them for your speech gives you away***

8-15) Jephthah is dead & three more judges, good men, short reigns not much of a legacy for them. Ibzan had 60 children--30/30 sons, daughters. He imported wives for the sons. Father in that culture to teach three things to sons **1** Law **2** trade **3** wife—Jephthah had no grandkids. In God's family there are those w/ much & those w/ little, still God loves and uses both w/ heaven the ultimate reward. Elon after him Abdon 40 sons 30 grandsons 70 donkeys *spoiled*—Officers of men of distinction ***Pr 17:6 Grandchildren are the crown of old men, And the glory of sons is their fathers.***

Ch 13 Samson last judge of Israel God's choice of a flawed man yet loved and used of God Heb 11:32, like all of us. Chronicles from inception as John Baptist and Jesus.

1-7) Chastised by the Philistines (*Gaza*) –First to be driven out yet now God uses to prove them. Bareness a dishonor & shame in that culture. **Henry VIII blamed his wives** – Yet the Lord in charge & his timing—Zorah 14 mi W Jerusalem

Never underestimate God for miracles Nu 6 law of the Nazarite—***to separate*** devoted to Lord – Alcohol banned hazard ***Pr 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.*** **Alcohol use during pregnancy can cause birth defects and developmental disabilities collectively known as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs). It can also cause other pregnancy problems, such as miscarriage, stillbirth, and prematurity.**

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Samson of tribe of Dan = *judge or judgment* Gen 49:16“*Dan shall judge his people, As one of the tribes of Israel.* Barren Childless waiting in faith for God’s blessings--a help for others who wait. *Angel of Lord-Christophany* 18 *Wonderful* Isaiah 9:6 19, Jehovah LORD, 22 *we have seen God*

Some never appreciate calling of God on their life Samson a flawed hero & cut short of full potential. Must own our calling--:5 *‘begin’* but not end or fulfill full potential.

8-14) Manoah believed his wife. Jesus said blessed are those who do not see yet believe. His concern is how to raise the child. Hands on what do you want me to do? God will do what He will do I want to know what I’m to do.

Angel appears a second time to wife when she is alone maybe in meditation or prayer or consideration of the enormity of the message. She wanted her husband to hear first hand and not only from his wife.

Manoah not envious that God came to wife and not him. Some husbands threatened by wife spiritual life.

15-23) Manoah talks freely, he didn’t know it was the angel of the LORD otherwise certainly he would freeze up, tongue tied, stutter, stumble over his words or not speak at all. We couldn’t handle it.

Vain curiosity not answered. Offer to the LORD and they did & it accepted. Ascended in a flame knew it was more than a man—an angel. He makes His angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire Ps 104:4

Ex 33:20 Moses ‘no man can see My face and live’ Manoah wife assures him they will not die—she the weaker vessel but stronger believer.

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24-25) God is good to His promises. Samson-sun like – from angel who appeared shining countenance. Sun compared to strong man Ps 19:5.

Spirit moving evidence of God's hand upon the child and family. We see this often on Samson but all the time...as wind blows and hear the sound so the Holy Spirit