

Cornerstone
Sunday AM, December 5, 2021
Wonderful

Isaiah 9:6

**For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Wonderful

Ted

Judges 13:2–21 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name *was* Manoah; and his wife *was* barren and had no children. ³ And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. ⁴ Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or *similar* drink, and not to eat anything unclean. ⁵ For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”

CJ

⁶ So the woman came and told her husband, saying, “A Man of God came to me, and His countenance *was* like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He *was* from, and He did not tell me His name. ⁷ And He said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’ ”

Ted

⁸ Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, “O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born.”

⁹ And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband *was* not with her. ¹⁰ Then the

woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, “Look, the Man who came to me the *other* day has just now appeared to me!”

CJ

¹¹ So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, “Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?”

And He said, “I *am*.”

¹² Manoah said, “Now let Your words come *to pass!* What will be the boy’s rule of life, and his work?”

¹³ So the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. ¹⁴ She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe.”

¹⁵ Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, “Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You.”

¹⁶ And the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD.” (For Manoah did not know He *was* the Angel of the LORD.)

Ted

¹⁷ Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, “What *is* Your name, that when Your words come *to pass* we may honor You?”

¹⁸ And the Angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask My name, seeing it *is* wonderful?”

CJ

¹⁹ So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on—²⁰ it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar—the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw *this*, they fell on their faces to the ground. ²¹ When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He *was* the Angel of the LORD.

Background story: The nation of ancient Israel is in trouble again, because they have done evil in the sight of God [again]. So...God sends yet another group of people (the Philistines this time) to conquer them and rule over them for 40 years....

1. There’s this guy named Manoah; his wife couldn’t have kids.

- a. What did it mean in the times of Manoah when his wife couldn’t have kids?
 - i. *She was considered to be cursed.*

2. A “Man” (the Angel of the Lord, a Theophany) appears to her, promising a son.

a. What is a “Theophany”.

i. *A pre-incarnate (pre-Christmas) appearance of Jesus.*

1. **Christmas “split” time!**

a. *There is before Christmas and after Christmas!*

b. *It has nothing to do with a sale!!*

3. She didn’t ask, and He didn’t mention His name.

a. Why?

i. *It was so obvious!*

4. What else was promised with this son? (What would the son do?)

a. *He shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”*

5. Manoah wanted to talk with the Man who spoke with His wife, so that is what Manoah prayed. Why would Manoah want to talk with the “Man”?

a. *Women were not considered legal witnesses in that day.*

i. *According to the Law of Moses, a woman’s vow was not binding on her unless either her father or her husband agreed to the vow!*

1. **Numbers 30:3–8** “Or if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and binds *herself* by some agreement while in her father’s house in her youth, ⁴ and her father hears her vow and the agreement by which she has bound herself, and her father holds his peace, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement with which she has bound herself shall stand. ⁵ **But if her father overrules her on the day that he hears, then none of her vows nor her agreements by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the LORD will release her, because her father overruled her.**

⁶“If indeed she takes a husband, while bound by her vows or by a rash utterance from her lips by which she bound herself, ⁷ and her husband hears *it*, and makes no response to her on the day that he hears, then her vows shall stand, and her agreements by which she bound herself shall stand. ⁸ **But if her husband overrules her on the day that he hears *it*, he shall make void her vow which she took and what she uttered with her lips, by which she bound herself, and the LORD will release her.**

6. The “Man” repeated what He told Manoah’s wife to Manoah

7. Manoah desired to provide a meal for the “Man”

a. Middle-Eastern Custom- “Normal”!

8. The “Man” turns the meal into a burnt offering, refusing to eat
- a. What was strange about the meal?
 - i. *Nobody ate it!*
9. Manoah asks the “Man’s” name, “that when Your words come *to pass* we may honor You?” (Accountability?)
- a. (The “Man” replies) “Why do you ask My name, seeing it *is* wonderful?”
10. What was the proof that this was not just some ordinary Angel?
- a. *The “Angel of the Lord” ascended in the flames of the offering*
 - i. */this spoke to Manoah and his wife that they had been speaking with the “Angel of the Lord” Himself!*
 1. **Psalm 75:1 We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare *that* Your name is near.**
11. Manoah and his wife knew who the “Man” was when this happened!
12. This promised son was to be named “Samson”.
- a. He wasn’t everything his parents hoped he would be.
 - b. God was going to use him to deliver Israel from the Philistines anyway!
13. What sort of boy was Samson?
- a. *Not a good boy...he did a lot of things that were not wise or holy (gambling, prostitution, hanging out with the enemy’s women, sleeping in the enemy’s camp, undermining his parent’s advice and ethics and going against common sense...Samson was very impressed with Samson!*
 - b. *God used him anyway.*
 - c. *Samson even shows up in Hebrews 11...the “Hall of Faith”!*
 - i. **Hebrews 11:32–34 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, **became valiant in battle**, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.**
 - d. This story is about both God and Samson. Was God’s ‘wonderfulness’ damaged by Samson’s behavior?
 - i. *No. God’s ‘wonderfulness’ (His glory) is part of His Nature, it is not dependent on people at all!*
 - ii. *Just like a certain manger, some shepherds and a less-than-desirable birth circumstance didn’t damage Who Jesus was!*
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- He is Wonderful because He works Wonders
 - **Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. (Isaiah 35:5–6).**
 - **The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners" (Isaiah 61:1)**
- He is Wonderful because He is the greatest Wonder: Fully God and Fully Man.
 - **In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed" (Daniel 7:13–14).**
 - **Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin [[Hebrew-alma=young woman](#) /[Greek-Parthenos=virgin](#)] will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). {About Jesus}**
 - [Just a sideline on the other part of this prophecy: **Isaiah 7:10–17**
Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.”
¹² **But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!”**
¹³ **Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin [double prophecy; two fulfilments] shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. ¹⁵ Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings. ¹⁷ The LORD will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father’s house—days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah.”]**
But none of that negates the impact of the prophecy about Jesus! He IS Wonderful because He is the greatest Wonder: Fully God and Fully Man.!!
- He is Wonderful because He is the ultimate wonder, delight and pleasure! We are awed by Him!
 - **“For thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they**

shall come to the **Desire of All Nations**, and I will fill this temple with glory,'
says the Lord of hosts. (Haggai 2:6-7)

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Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

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