

Why Does God Send Special Servants?

International Bible Lessons

Judges 13:1-8, 24-25

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L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, ‘Although you are barren, having borne no children, you shall conceive and bear a son’” (Judges 13:3—NRSV).

“And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, ‘Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son’” (Judges 13:3—ESV).

“And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son” (Judges 13:3—KJV).

To save His people, God raised up some of His special servants by enabling barren women to conceive and give birth. Before the birth of Isaac, God planned far in advance for Sarah, the barren wife of Abraham, to conceive Isaac, the child of the promise, when she and Abraham were too old to conceive a child. Though barren, with God’s help, the mother of Samson conceived and gave birth to the strongest of the judges in the Old Testament. Because God wanted Samson to serve Him as a totally dedicated Nazirite, God forbid his mother to drink wine or strong drink before Samson was born. When God planned for Samuel’s birth, so he would replace the corrupt priest Eli and his sons, God enabled the barren Hannah to conceive.

Probably the best and greatest of the judges, Samuel remained a faithful Nazirite for life. Samuel anointed the first two kings that God appointed in Israel, King Saul and King David. After Elizabeth and her husband were well past the ability to conceive a child, God enabled her to conceive John the Baptist, whom God filled with the Holy Spirit while he was still in his mother's womb. John the Baptist also served God as a Nazirite and challenged God's people to prepare themselves for the coming of the Messiah. Unlike all the women before her, while still a virgin, Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit. Mary gave birth to the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to save God's people from their sins and grant them eternal life.

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lgp@InternationalBibleLessons.org

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5. Samson's parents followed the LORD's instructions, but Samson chose how he would live after he became an adult. Why do you think he made some wrong choices during his time as judge over the Israelites?

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