

“A Savior is Born”
Judges 13
(Preached at Trinity, June 21, 2015)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Last time we began the portion of Judges that introduces one of the best known of the judges and the last of the judges, Samson. Israel has continued her downward spiral into sin. We've seen a familiar pattern as we've gone through the Book of Judges: Israel would fall into idolatrous sin, God judged them through the raising up of an enemy to oppress them, Israel would cry out to God for relief, God would demonstrate His mercy in raising up a deliver to defeat their enemy, and then they would enjoy a season of peace. But after the judge dies Israel returned to their sinful idolatry and the pattern repeats.
2. As Israel continues in sin the pattern changes. We've already seen that after Gideon we no longer see the season of peace. Their sin is escalating. There can be no peace while sin rules the human heart.
3. With Samson we find yet another break in the pattern. In this passage we find God raising up His deliver even though Israel did not seek relief. God displays His grace upon fallen humanity. As we saw last time this is a beautiful picture of the condition of humanity as God sends forth His Savior. Christ came while we were yet sinners, while we were helpless, and while we were not seeking Him.
4. Tonight, as we continue our tour into the life of Samson our attention continues to be drawn to God's Savior. Samson is but a foreshadow of God's salvation in Christ.
 - a. As we enter the story we are introduced to Manoah of the tribe of Dan. But the real focus is upon his wife. She is nameless, only described as Manoah's wife.
 - b. She is described as barren.

Judges 13:2 NAU - "his wife was barren and had borne no *children*."
5. Through this otherwise unknown couple God would raise up His deliverer.

Judges 13:5 NAU - "For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

עֲשֵׂה – The word can be translated “save.” Our attention is drawn to similar words the angel told Joseph regarding the birth of Jesus.

Matthew 1:21 NAU - "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."
6. In many ways we'll see the deliverer Samson as a foreshadow of Christ with many similarities. But with each similitude we find a great contrast. Tonight I want to direct your attention to three of the differences between Samson and Christ.

May it fill our hearts with awe once again as we consider the uniqueness of Christ.

 - I. Different in Conception
 - II. Different in Consecration
 - III. Different in Completion

I. Different in Conception

- A. The Holy Spirit wants us to notice the conception of Samson
1. We know nothing of Samson's childhood. The text moves from his birth directly to a young man heading off to obtain a wife.
 2. The birth of Christ follows the same pattern. The glorious birth and infancy followed by twelve years of silence and then after a brief glance at a twelve-year-old we leap forward to find a 30 year-old Jesus.
 3. The point is the births are significant. Samson was not a deliverer who was already available. He was one raised up from his mother's womb. In fact God chose him before he was conceived. He was planned, purposed of God.
 4. And Jesus was the chosen Redeemer ordained in the eternal Covenant of Redemption.
1 Peter 1:20 - "For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you"
 - a. God's redemptive purpose for the salvation of His elect people was founded in eternity
 - b. There was a covenant made within the Godhead
 LBC 7:3 - "that eternal covenant transaction that was between the Father and the Son about the redemption of the elect. . ."
 - c. Jesus was ordained from eternity as the Savior of His people.
- B. The births of both Samson and Christ involved Divine intervention
1. Samson's mother was barren. This is the one characteristic we know about her. And it is prominent in the story. The narrator declares it in **Verse 2** and then we read the words of the angel in **Verse 3**.
 2. Barrenness has always been a great trial for women of all ages but in the Old Covenant it was a great curse.
 - a. First of all, most people looked upon the poor barren couple supposing them to have committed some great secret sin that caused God to close the womb.
 - b. Second, God promised in **Genesis 3** that the woman would bear a child that would forever crush Satan. Every Hebrew woman hoped she would bear that child.
Genesis 3:15 NAU - "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."
 - c. In addition, God's Old Covenant promise to Abraham was an innumerable seed.
 Children were seen as the fulfillment of God's promise and to be childless was seen as being barred from participating in the promise.
 - d. The Old Testament gives us several examples of the great sorrow barrenness brought upon a Hebrew woman.
Genesis 16:1-2 NAU - "Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no *children*, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar. ² So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing *children*. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai."

Genesis 30:1 NAU - " Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she became jealous of her sister; and she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die."

1 Samuel 1:4-8 NAU - "When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters; ⁵ but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶ Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷ It happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she would provoke her; so she wept and would not eat. ⁸ Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep and why do you not eat and why is your heart sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

- e. The last of the OT barren women is actually found in the NT **Luke 1:5-7 NAU** - " In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years."

6. In each of these cases of barrenness God intervened and opened their womb. In two of the cases, Sarah and Elizabeth, they were well beyond the age of being able to conceive. It was by God's supernatural intervention. Samson's birth is meant to direct our eyes forward.

- B. The birth of Jesus was also by Divine intervention but unlike any other birth. Mary wasn't barren but a virgin.

Matthew 1:23 NAS - "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

1. Jesus was a human child born of a human woman
Galatians 4:4 NAU - " But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,"
- a. He was born as all other human beings
 - b. Mary carried Him 9 months
 - c. She delivered Him in the normal way
The cries of a mother in labor, the cry of a new born child
 - d. He appeared as a normal, healthy, baby boy
 - e. In fact, He *was* a normal, healthy, human baby in every way

2. But from the very beginning we know that He was far different from any other man
 - a. His conception was miraculous - He had no earthly father – Mary was a virgin
Luke 1:34-35 NAU - "Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."
 - b. This was a supernatural conception brought about by the Holy Spirit
Matthew 1:20 NAU - "But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."
3. The birth of Samson demonstrated God's sovereign authority and power, yet he was conceived like every other human child
4. Jesus was not conceived like every other human child. His birth was beyond our comprehension. He was miraculously conceived. God took on human flesh. He was both human and divine—fully God and fully man. The birth of Christ demonstrated God's one and only solution for our sin. We needed a Savior like us, but we needed and infinitely holy Savior. And we needed a Savior who could bear God's infinite wrath upon our sin. He had to be the perfect God-man. The virgin birth was essential for this.
5. God designed the birth of Samson to cause us to look forward to the birth of Christ. Remember, meditate, and stand in awe and amazement.

II. Different in Consecration – set apart

A. Samson was consecrated from his mother's womb

1. He was to be a Nazirite. This vow was placed upon him before he was born. His mother was to fulfill the vows of the Nazirite while he was still in the womb. What she ate and drank, Samson ate in-utero.
Numbers 6:2-8 NAU - "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When a man or woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to dedicate himself to the LORD, ³ he shall abstain from wine and strong drink; he shall drink no vinegar, whether made from wine or strong drink, nor shall he drink any grape juice nor eat fresh or dried grapes. ⁴ 'All the days of his separation he shall not eat anything that is produced by the grape vine, from *the* seeds even to *the* skin. ⁵ 'All the days of his vow of separation no razor shall pass over his head. He shall be holy until the days are fulfilled for which he separated himself to the LORD; he shall let the locks of hair on his head grow long. ⁶ 'All the days of his separation to the LORD he shall not go near to a dead person. ⁷ 'He shall not make himself unclean for his father or for his mother, for his brother or for his sister, when they die, because his separation to God is on his head. ⁸ 'All the days of his separation he is holy to the LORD."

2. Normally the Nazirite vow was taken voluntarily for a designated period
It generally contained three elements:
Abstaining from wine or any product of the grape
Refraining from cutting the hair
Refraining from becoming unclean by touching a corpse
 3. The key element in the vow was that of holiness, of separation and consecration.
 4. Samson's Nazirite consecration was different. It was not voluntary. It was made before he was born. And it was a perpetual vow.
Samson violated every aspect of his vow - by touching a dead body, drinking wine, and allowing his hair to be cut. Most important, Samson's life was not characterized by holiness.
- B. Christ's consecration was infinitely different
1. Jesus was perfect in every way. His whole life was characterized by holiness
Hebrews 7:26 NAU - "For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;"
Philippians 2:8 NAU - " Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."
John 4:34 NAU - "Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work."
 2. Jesus was born under the Law like every human being. But unlike every human being, He fulfilled it perfectly.
 3. In addition, Jesus was not corrupted by original sin. He wasn't born guilty. He wasn't born with a corrupt nature
 4. Everything about Christ shines forth in radiant holiness, infinite perfection
John 1:14 NAU - "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."
Hebrews 1:3 NAU - "And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,"

III. Different in Completion

By this I mean only one of these completed his task. Only one of these deliverers provided ultimate deliverance

A. Samson only partially delivered Israel from the Philistines

1. The angel foretold this
Judges 13:5 NAU - "For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

2. Samson killed a large number of Philistines in his death but did not destroy the nation.
Judges 16:29-30 NAU - "Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and braced himself against them, the one with his right hand and the other with his left. ³⁰ And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed in his life."
 3. But the Philistines would continue to torment Israel. Don't forget Goliath during David's day.
1 Samuel 17:4 NAU - "Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span."
1 Samuel 17:24 NAU - "When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid."
 4. David defeated the Philistines, but the Philistines were not Israel's greatest enemy. Their greatest enemy and ours is sin. Sin is in a relentless pursuit of us. God described it to Cain as a stalking enemy crouching at the door.
- B. Jesus came as our Savior to actually accomplish fully our deliverance
- Matthew 1:21 NAU** - "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."
1. Jesus didn't come to "begin" our deliverance. Jesus came to accomplish our deliverance from sin. It was His purpose and nothing would prevent its fulfillment.
 2. The death of Christ fully accomplished our redemption
 3. His words on the cross declared it – "It is finished!" Nothing else remained. He fully accomplished the salvation of His people. Mission accomplished.
 4. The resurrection demonstrated God's full acceptance of the atoning sacrifice of Christ.
 5. Samson was only a picture of a deliverer, a mere type. He causes us to direct our attention forward. Where Samson only "began" to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines, Jesus fully accomplished the deliverance of His people.
John 6:38-39 NAU - "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day."
 6. Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, the place of honor, the place of authority. Jesus is reigning until every last enemy is crushed.
Psalms 110:1-2 NAU - " The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." ² The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, *saying*, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies."

Conclusion:

1. What value do you place upon this Savior? As wonderful and powerful as our Lord's deliverance is it will not deliver you unless you embrace Him.
2. Jesus Christ is the King of kings, reigning with absolute power and authority. He has the power to save you from your sin if you forsake your sin and follow Him.
3. If He is your Savior you need not fear any enemy.
Psalms 18:2-3 KJV - "The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower. ³ I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies."