

# Close Encounters of the God Kind Judges Pt 11

## SCENARIO - AND GOD'S TIMING (*hand over vs rescue*)

Jdg 13:1-25 NLT Again the Israelites did evil in the LORD's sight, so the **LORD handed them over to the Philistines**, who oppressed them for forty years.....vs 5 [a new baby would be born → and the LORD said] **He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines.**

## God Encounters Manoah's Wife

**An unnamed woman, a need, sorrow, no hope → until she encountered God**

- 2 In those days a man named Manoah from the tribe of Dan lived in the town of Zorah. His wife was **unable to become pregnant, and they had no children.** 3 The angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife and said, **"Even though you have been unable to have children, you will soon become pregnant and give birth to a son.**

**God's purpose for the child revealed before birth → a woman w/ no hope giving birth to a deliverer**

- 4 So be careful; you must not drink **wine** or any other **alcoholic drink** nor eat any **forbidden food.** 5 You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his **hair must never be cut.** For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. **He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines."**

*Jer 1:5 NLT "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."*

## God Encounters Manoah (in the midst of his doubts and uncertainty)

**She had an encounter with God → wanted to share with her husband (hard to keep quiet about it)**

- 7 But he told me, 'You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink nor eat any forbidden food. **For your son will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from the moment of his birth until the day of his death."**

**(Maybe didn't believe his wife, wanted more detail?) -- either way God answered and encountered him**

- 8 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, saying, **"Lord, please let the man of God come back to us again and give us MORE INSTRUCTIONS about this son who is to be born."** 9 **God answered Manoah's prayer,** and the angel of God appeared once again to his wife...

**Manoah wanted details - The Lord basically said, "I gave your wife all you need to know, trust my word**

- 12 So Manoah asked him, **"When your words come true, what kind of rules should govern the boy's life and work?"** 13 The angel of the LORD replied, "Be sure your wife follows the instructions I gave her. 16...(Manoah didn't realize it was the angel of the LORD.) → not just man of God vs 8

## Manoah and His Wife Finally Realize Whom They Have Encountered

17 Then Manoah asked the angel of the LORD, **"What is your name?** For when all this comes true, we want to honor you." 18 **"Why do you ask my name?"** the angel of the LORD replied. **"It is too wonderful for you to understand."** 19 Then Manoah took a young goat and a grain offering and offered it on a rock as a sacrifice to the LORD. And as Manoah and his wife watched, the LORD did an **amazing thing.** 20 As the flames from the altar shot up toward the sky, the angel of the LORD ascended in the fire. **When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell with their faces to the ground.**

- **Wonderful and amazing thing - same Hebrew word** Means wonderful, incomprehensible, beyond understanding. too marvelous for humans to grasp. (used in Isa 8:6 "His name shall be called **Wonderful Counselor...**"

## Manoah and His Wife Encountered Jesus - a Christophany

21 The angel did not appear again to Manoah and his wife. Manoah finally realized it was the angel of the LORD, 22 and he said to his wife, **"We will certainly die, for we have seen God!"**

### **Other places this happened in the Bible**

- **Hagar (Gen 16:7–13)** - The angel of the LORD found her... (v. 7) , **and Hagar says**, *"You are the God who sees me"* (v. 13)
- **Moses at the Burning Bush (Ex 3:2–6)** - The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire..." (v. 2) **The angel says**, *"I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"* (v. 6) and commands worship.

### **He has an AMAZING name and he does AMAZING things...have you encountered him?**

- Php 2:9-11 NLT Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, 10 **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## God Encounters Samson (a blessing and a stirring)

24 When her son was born, she named him Samson. And **the LORD blessed him as he grew up**. 25 And **the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him** while he lived in Mahaneh-dan, which is located between the towns of Zorah and Eshtaol.

- He lived in the Camp of Dan close to the Philistines, God was stirring him, prodding him toward his calling right at the border where his mission will be played out
- It is a stirring, an inner restlessness, or something unsettling (troubled by a dream)
- God often works in us (stirring our hearts) before he works through us

### **Summary - Have you had an encounter with Jesus? You cannot meet him and be left unchanged**

- 1) **(WIFE) Do you need hope, a promise, a miracle - you need an encounter with God**
- 2) **(SAMSON) Purpose in life?, blessing? Stirred by spirit? you need an encounter with God**
- 3) **(MANOAH) Are you dealing with doubts and uncertainty - you need an encounter with God**

**When they had an encounter with the LORD Jesus Christ, falling on your knees before Him?**

**When was the last time you sensed God stirring in your heart? Respond to it, he is moving you to your purpose.**