

SAMSON (pt.1): Judges 13 by Brett Baggett on Sunday, March 15th, 2020

- This passage is far more about the LORD than it is Samson or Samson's parents or the people of Israel!
- The main actor in chapter 13 is the Angel of the LORD, mentioned at least SEVENTEEN times in these 25 verses.
- Here, beloved, is the point of this passage: The LORD—the Creator and Sustainer of everyone and everything—is FAR MORE than WE have ever imagined. *WORLD. I. YOU.*

I. THE LORD IS FAR MORE GRACIOUS THAN WE HAVE EVER IMAGINED (v.1-5)

- The people did NOT cry out to the LORD yet he still raised up a savior; Manoah and his wife could NOT conceive and have a son yet the LORD gave them one to be a deliverer.
- The LORD does not save His people in response to their repentance; His people repent in response to the LORD's saving work for them!

II. THE LORD IS FAR MORE KIND THAN WE HAVE EVER IMAGINED (v.6-14)

- Clear commands > answered prayer > discourse > clear commands reinforced
- Dr. Robert Godfrey, "I think a very important lesson is being taught here to the people of God. One of the faults of the people of God is to want more information than God has given us. And the problem is not that we lack the information we need; the problem we do not act on the information we have."

III. THE LORD IS FAR MORE WONDERFUL THAN WE HAVE EVER IMAGINED (v.6,15-20)

- v.6 - Appearance of the angel of the LORD "exceedingly/abundantly/greatly/excessively...awful/fearful/frightening/terrible/dreadful (i.e. something that causes reverence)."
- v.18 - Lit. "Why do you ask my name? it is wonderful!" (c.f. Psalm 139:6 "It is too wonderful! So high I cannot reach it! It is beyond me!")
- v.19 - More literally, verse 19 is saying "And the LORD was working wonders." Twice the writer tells us Manoah and his wife "were watching." ((Dale Ralph Davis notes, "The text is somewhat difficult but the idea seems clear."))
- v.20 - The Angel of the LORD entered the fire; entered the flames that were above the sacrifice to the LORD; visually uniting Himself with the flames going up the heaven as an offering of worship to God!
- Q. And what did Manoah and his wife do?! A. They fell on their faces to the ground in fear and awe!
- Romans 11:33 "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!...For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."
- This is the sight that is the Christians' deepest joy; this is the deepest longing of every human heart; like a Lion only wants to eat meat, Christians only want to see the LORD's splendor: "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord..." Psalm 27:4
- This is vision that transforms us into the likeness of Jesus. Like a caterpillar which undergoes metamorphosis to become a butterfly, like soiled clay is fashioned into bricks which build a grand cathedral: "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another." 2 Corinthians 3:18
- This is the spectacle that we imperfectly see now because of the foggy limitations of our sinful flesh; yet one day we will see him in the pure sunlight of His perfect righteousness: "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully..." 1 Corinthians 13:12
- Q. Is this site your true desire? Q. Is this the vision that transforms you to be more like Jesus? Q. Is this the spectacle that you so long to see face to face?

IV. THE LORD IS FAR MORE HOLY THAN WE HAVE EVER IMAGINED (v.21-22)

- When Manoah realizes who they had seen and been talking to, he says, "We are dead."
- Exodus 33:20.
- ILLUSTRATION: While I was writing sermon notes this week I noticed the top of my Dr. Pepper can said, "You deserve this. You deserve this." *I don't think I want to drink it now*
- A. The world has it totally backwards! Q. Do you?

V. THE LORD IS FAR MORE LOVING THAN WE HAVE EVER IMAGINED (v.23-25)

- Manoah's response is correct concerning the Law of God and His HOLINESS; but Manoah's wife's response is correct concerning the Gospel of God and His LOVINGKINDNESS.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9 "He has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."