

Judges 13 - 14

Samson: The Twelfth Judge:

Part I

I. Review

A. Prologues

1. Background (1:1 - 2:5)
2. Overview (2:6 - 3:11)

B. The Major Judges — The First Bunch

1. Ehud Ben-Gera, the Left-Handed Benjamite, assassinated Eglon, King of Moab and captured the Fords of Jordan. (3:12-31)
2. Deborah and Barak Ben-Abinoam defeated Jabin, King of Canaan's army, and Sisera, the commander, was killed by Jael. (4 - 5)
3. Gideon Ben-Joash (a.k.a. Jerub-Baal) the Abiezrite defeated the Midianites, Amalekites, and other eastern tribes. (6 - 8:32)

C. The Anti-Judge: Abimelech Ben-Jerub-Baal was made king and then fought against Shechem and against Thebez, where he was killed by a woman dropping a millstone on his head from a tower.

D. The Major Judges — The Second Bunch: Jephthah, Bastard Son of Gilead, defeated the Ammonites (but lost his own daughter as the result of a foolish vow) and fought a civil war with the Ephraimites. (10:6-12:7)

II. Details

A. The Sin (13:1)

B. The Enemies (13:1): Philistines¹

C. The Deliverer: Samson Ben-Manoah

1. From the tribe of Dan, between the territories of Judah and Ephraim and north of Philistia
2. From the city of Zorah²

¹ Philistines: Indo-European mariners descended from Ham who colonized the southwestern coastline of Israel

² Zorah: Originally a city of Judah (Josh15:33), because the Danites could not drive the Amorites out of their land (See 1:34-36), perhaps it was then allotted to Dan.

3. One of the “Heroes of Faith” (See Heb 11:32.)
4. The Fortelling of His Birth (13:2-23)
 - i. The Angel of the Lord appears.
 - ii. Samson is set apart as a Nazirite³ (See Num 6:1-21) for life.
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5. The Birth and Youth of Samson (14:24-25)
6. The Wedding of Samson (14:1-18)
 - i. Samson becomes infatuated with a Philistine woman in a Philistine town known for its vineyards.
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 - v. Samson bets with his 30 Philistine companions on the solution to a riddle.
7. The First Outburst of Anger — A Sign of What Is To Come (14:19-20)

III. Application and Discussion

- A. In what ways can Samson be seen as an example of the whole nation of Israel?**
- B. Who is this “Angel of the Lord”? (Compare also 14:18 with Is 9:6.)**
- C. Which other people in Scripture were or may have been Nazirites?**
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- E. What does it mean when it says that the Spirit stirred Samson (14:25)?**
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