



SAMSON SERIES

Part 2: The Angel
of the Lord

Patrick Ormsby

- There are four chapters dedicated to Samson in the book of Judges, I believe that his life has much to teach us about Christ and our redemption in him. His life is not merely just a cautionary tale. We can learn much about faith through his example.
- The book of Hebrews, chapter 11, mentions him amongst those OT saints who walked by faith. Samson came into the world at a time when Israel had been ruled and dominated by the Philistines.
- This period in Israel's history was a very dark time. Israel's dark ages if you will. The time of the Judges. We see the recurring refrain - "Again Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord."
- The evil that Israel were committing was idolatry, they had come to worship the gods of the peoples that they were meant to have ousted from the Land that God had promised them. Israel was unfaithful to God.
- But God continued to be faithful to them so when ever they cried out to him God would send judges, to deliver them from their oppressors. But Israel's fidelity to God lasted only as long as the that particular judge lived. After they died Israel would fall back into idolatry.

- And so eventually it came to pass that God sent them a saviour that no one had asked for. God sent Samson to stir the hornets nest amongst the Philistines, and to shake Israel out of her apathy.
- By the time Samson had come on the scene Israel had pretty much accepted their lot in life. There were no revolts no uprisings against their enemies who were the Philistines at the time. No fight in them. No resistance.
- They had resigned to their fate that they were destined to be ruled and subjugated by the Philistines. They did not cry out to God to save them as was the case in the past when they had been oppressed by an enemy.
- It seems that they were content with the status quo. Happy to just avoid the Philistines. And later on in the following chapters we will see Samson fraternising with the Philistines.
- Despite that God had other Ideas. You see Paul the apostle said:
“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.” - II Timothy 2:13 NKJV
- So in the book of Judges the camera zooms in and shows us a man from a place called Zorah named Manoah from the tribe of Dan and his wife who is never named and was also barren she could not have children. Yet through this mysterious character “The Angel of the Lord” he announces that they will give birth to a son. And he will begin to deliver Israel. Samson will be set apart from the womb as a Nazarite.

- Samson was to be set apart as a Nazarite. Why? His mission was clear he would begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines. We all know about Samson and his flowing locks he was never to cut.
- Samson as far as his Nazarite calling was concerned, was a type of Christ. As a Nazarite to God, a Nazarite from the womb. Holy set apart for God, though our Lord Jesus was not a Nazarite himself, yet he was typified by the Nazarites, as being perfectly pure from all sin, the sinless Son of God, and entirely devoted to his Father's honour.
- Jesus is the deliverer of Israel; the Saviour, who saves his people from their sins. But with this difference: Samson only began to deliver Israel. David would be raised up to complete the destruction of the Philistines.

Matthew Henry said -

"...but our Lord Jesus is both Samson and David too, both the author and finisher of our faith."

Paul said -

"...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ..." - Philippians 1:6 NKJV

SIN

**WILL TAKE YOU FARTHER
THAN YOU WANT TO GO,
KEEP YOU LONGER
THAN YOU WANT TO STAY,
AND COST YOU MORE
THAN YOU WANT TO PAY.**

*“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
I thank God - through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

Romans 7:24-25a NKJV

- Last time I mentioned, that Samson's mother had added to the statement made by the Angel of the Lord that he would be a "Nazarite to God from the womb..." She added "to the day of his death".
- I found this to be very interesting, because it was almost like she had spiritual insight that from the beginning that Samson's Nazarite status, his consecration, the very purpose for why he was born would be consummated in his death.
- Israel was in a dark place. Yet despite their wickedness, despite the fact that they had just accepted Philistine dominance, without putting up a fight. God because of his loving kindness and his grace towards his people was going to bring them a saviour anyway.
- And it was his death that would prove to be of outmost significance. Samson's mother had that revelation, I believe.
- And we can see the parallel in the NT where we have Mary's heart her very soul in the future would be pierced as with a sword as she held her baby son in her arms. Her mothers heart would break as she would have to endure and see her son Jesus, go through the mocking, the beatings and ultimately his death on a Roman cross. His suffering would not leave her untouched. But also to recognise with hope that in his death would come, not only deliverance or redemption for Israel but the whole world!

“Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, “O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born.” And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, “Look, the Man who came to me the other day has just now appeared to me!””

Judges 13:8-10 NKJV

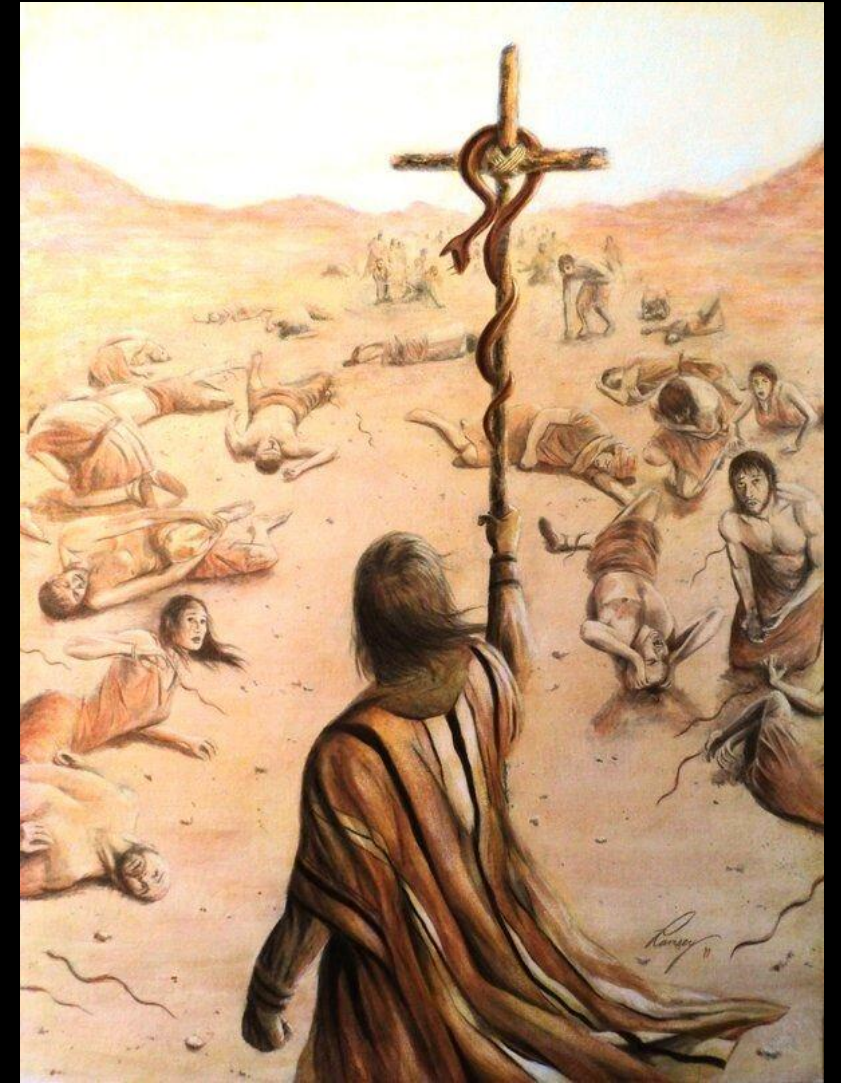
Typology is a special kind of symbolism. (A symbol is something that represents something else.) We can define a type as a “prophetic symbol” because all types are representations of something yet future. More specifically, a type in Scripture is a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament. For example, the flood of Noah’s day (Genesis 6 - 7) is used as a type of baptism in 1 Peter 3:20-21. The word for “type” that Peter uses is figure.

When we say that someone is a type of Christ, we are saying that a person in the Old Testament behaves in a way that corresponds to Jesus’ character or actions in the New Testament. When we say that something is “typical” of Christ, we are saying that an object or event in the Old Testament can be viewed as representative of some quality of Jesus.









Men in the Old Testament that typified Christ:

- Adam
- Joseph
- Jonah
- Melchizedek



The Book of Hebrews looks at the Tabernacle, the priesthood of Melchizedek, the sacrificial system instituted under the law of Moses, the Passover - all typify Christ and His finished work in redemption.



A **theophany** is a manifestation of God in the Bible that is tangible to the senses. In its most restrictive sense, it is a visible appearance of God in the Old Testament period, often, but not always, in human form.



*“And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way,
and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.”*

Exodus 13:21 NKJV



A **Christophany** is a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ.

I believe most *theophanies* in the Old Testament were *Christophanies*.

This is the difference between a 'Type of Christ' and a 'Christophany':

- A **Type** foreshadowed and represented the coming of Christ and His finished work in redemption in the New Testament, through symbols and pictures in the Old Testament.
- A **Christophany** was an actual appearance of the second person of the trinity, Jesus, before He took on a human body and actually became human as a little baby in Bethlehem - before the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).

In Hebrew He is called Malak Yahweh (the Angel of the Lord) and also Malak Elohim (the Angel of God). Malak is translated **angel** in English (Greek - *Angelos*), simply means **messenger**. An angel is not always an angelic creature or being. Malak can also be a human messenger.

The noun Malak (Messenger) is used 213 times in the Old Testament. In the historical books it is used many times. Judges (31 times), 2 Kings (20 times), 1 Samuel (19 times), 2 Samuel (18 Times).

In the Prophetic books it is not mentioned much except in Zechariah.

So you have human messengers and supernatural messengers.

Human Messengers

Malak speaks of someone sent over a great distance by an individual or a community - and there can also be multiple messengers.

“Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. And he commanded them, saying, “Speak thus to my lord Esau, ‘Thus your servant Jacob says: “I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now.””

Genesis 32:3-4 NKJV

So the messengers would deliver their message as representatives of their master or king. Usually containing the phrase, “thus saith”, or “this is what *blank* says...”.

As a representative of the king they may have functioned as a diplomat - an ambassador.

“Now Ben-Hadad the king of Syria gathered all his forces together; thirty-two kings were with him, with horses and chariots. And he went up and besieged Samaria, and made war against it. Then he sent messengers[Malak] into the city to Ahab king of Israel, and said to him, “Thus says Ben-Hadad: ‘Your silver and your gold are mine; your loveliest wives and children are mine.’ ””

I Kings 20:1-3 NKJV

““O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”

Matthew 23:37 NKJV

Supernatural Messengers

Angelic beings in general are called “sons of God” or Hebrew “Bene Elohim” (Gen 6:4; Job 1:6) - never the sons of Yahweh. The title Elohim (Mighty One) was used of both the true God and the gods of heathen nations.

The title Yahweh was reserved for the God of Israel alone. Yahweh, the eternally self-existent One, the One who made the heavens and the earth, and the God who entered in to covenant with His people.

We see two angels sent to Sodom in Genesis.

“Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.”

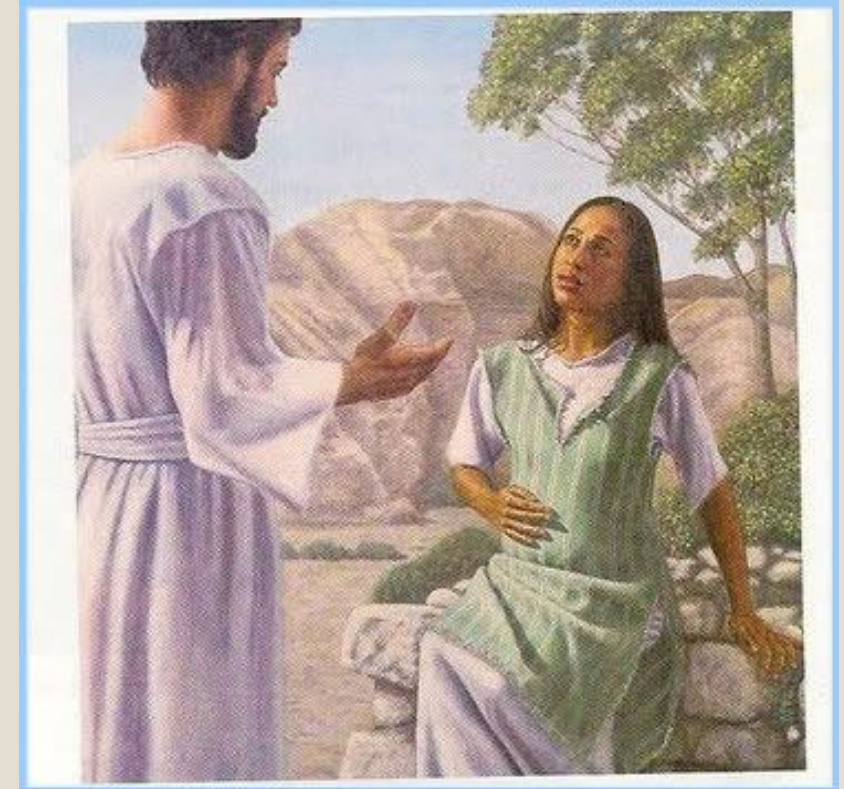
Genesis 19:1 NKJV

These were two supernatural beings that were sent by God to retrieve Lot and his family out of Sodom before the judgment of God fell on the city. They were so powerful that they struck the men trying to abuse them with blindness!

“Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. And He said, “Hagar, Sarai’s maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.” The Angel of the LORD said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand.” Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, “I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.””

Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, “Have I also here seen Him who sees me?””

Genesis 16:7-10, 13 NKJV



“And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.”



So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.”

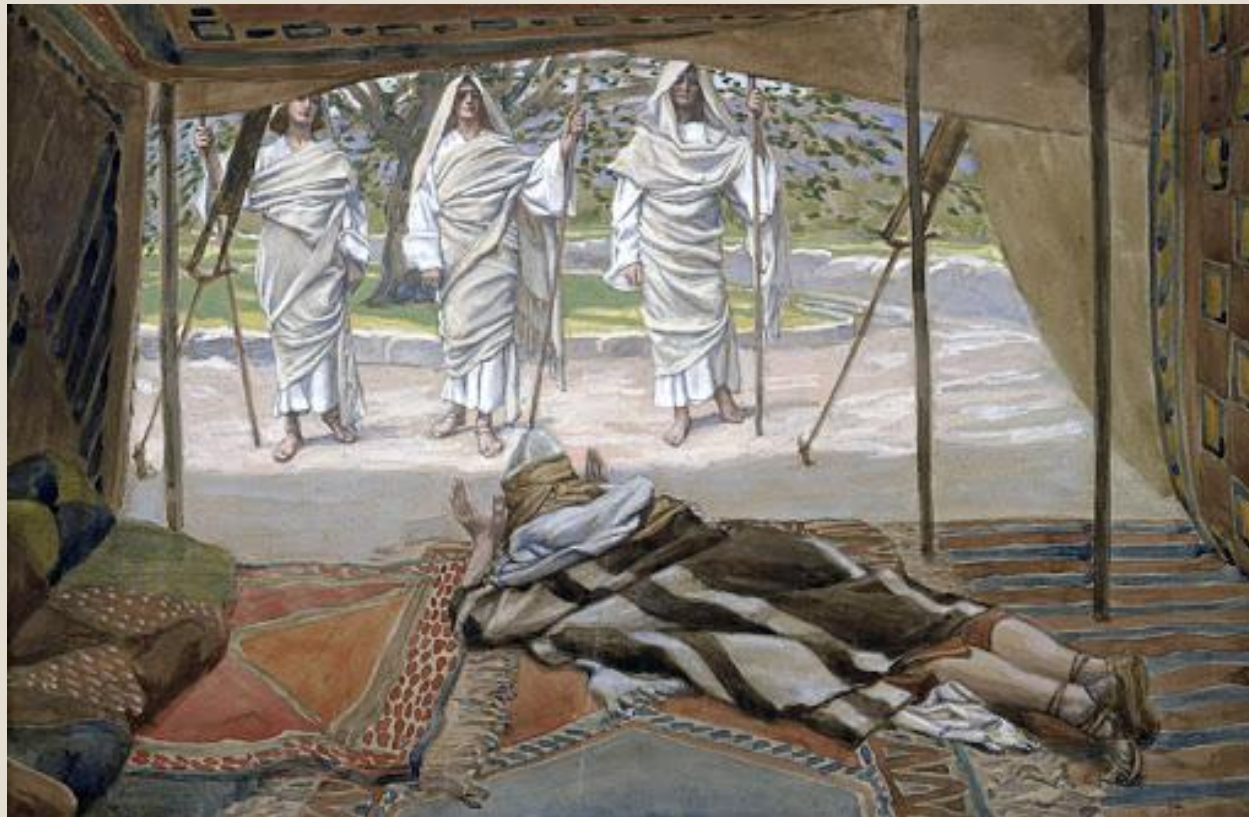
Exodus 3:2-6 NKJV

“Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?” And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ””

Exodus 3:13-14 NKJV

“...Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.””

John 8:58 NKJV



“Then the Angel of the LORD answered and said, “O LORD of hosts, how long will You not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which You were angry these seventy years?” And the LORD answered the angel who talked to me, with good and comforting words.”

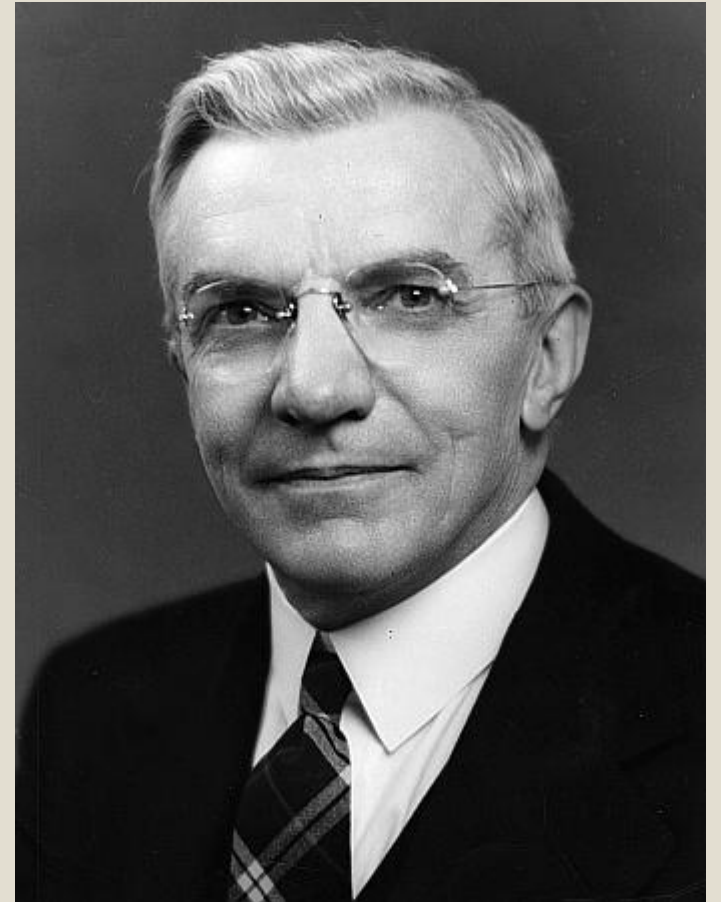
Zechariah 1:12-13 NKJV

“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

Hebrews 7:25 NKJV

“The oft phrase “the Angel of the LORD” as found in the Old Testament, has special reference to the pre-incarnate second person of the Trinity.”

- Henry C. Theissen

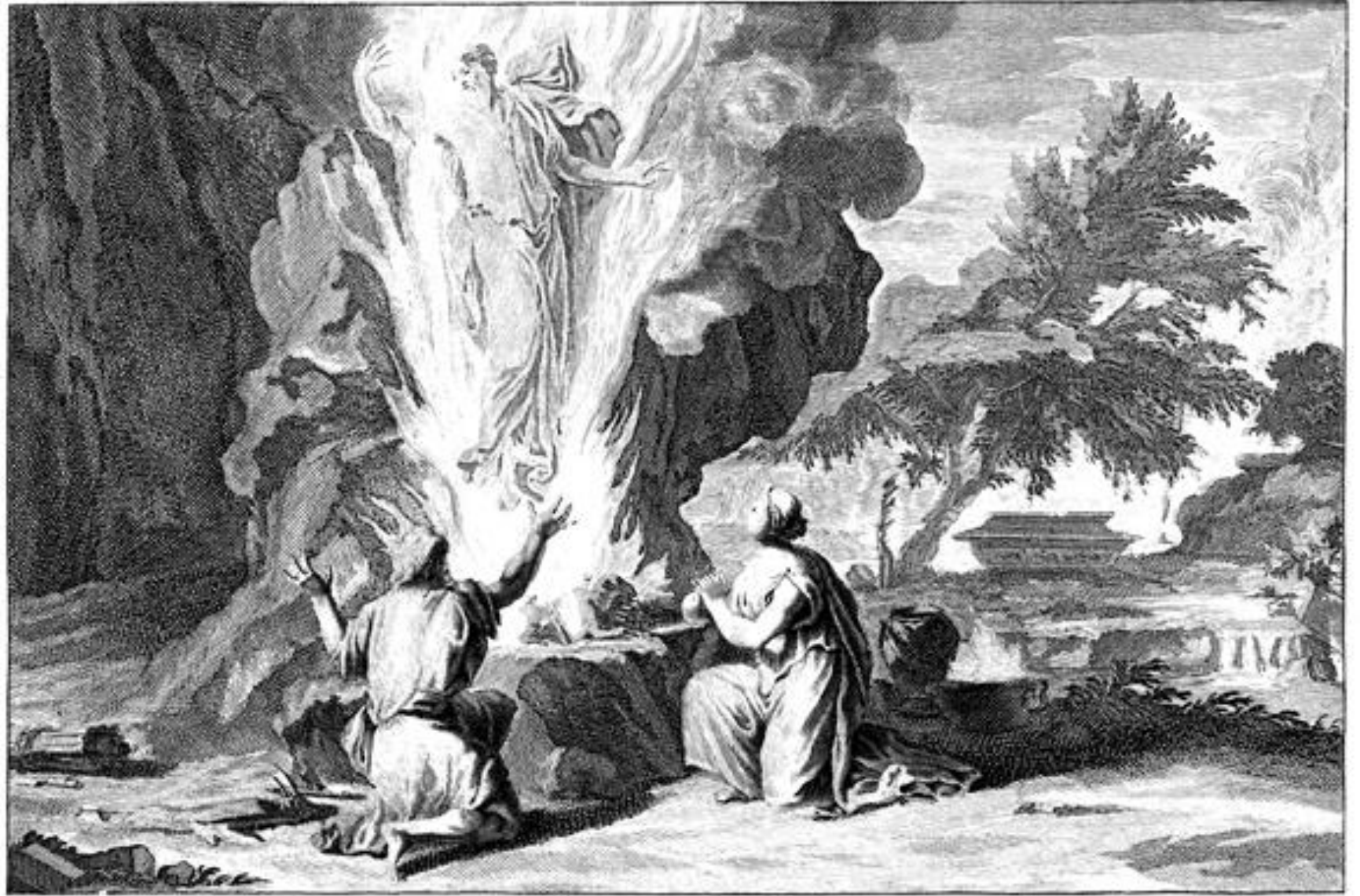


“So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, “Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?” And He said, “I am. ” Manoah said, “Now let Your words come to pass! What will be the boy’s rule of life, and his work?” So the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe.””

Judges 13:11-14 NKJV

“Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, “Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You.” And the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, “Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD.” (For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the LORD.) Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, “What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honour You?” And the Angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?” So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on - it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar - the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the LORD.”

Judges 13:15-21 NKJV



“And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

Ephesians 5:2 NKJV

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6 NKJV

“And Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, because we have seen God!” But his wife said to him, “If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have told us such things as these at this time.” So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.”

Judges 13:22-25 NKJV



“No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us.”

John 1:18 NLT

“Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?”

John 14:8-9 NLT

“But his wife said to him, “If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have told us such things as these at this time.””

Judges 13:23 NKJV

