

A Wonderful Savior

(Judges 13)

Outline by Randy Wages

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Note: The text below was prepared for oral delivery rather than for publication in print. As such, be aware that sentence fragments are intentionally used and that this document has not been edited to correct the errors in grammar, sentence structure, etc.

I. Introduction ó

A. Introduce Title and Text:

B. Weøll be considering the story of how an angel appeared unto the parents of Samson, (Manoah and his wife), to foretell of Samsonø birth. Samson is an interesting character because in many ways he is a type of Christ Himself. But in todayø text we will focus on the appearance of what is called an øangelö who is revealed to be a pre-incarnate manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself ó that is Christ, the God-man, making a temporary appearance here long before the time of His actual birth.

II. Read Judges 13:1-18

A. Vss. 17-18:

1. Draw parallel to Jacobø wrestling with a man in Gen. 32, another pre-incarnate manifestation of Christ, noting the similarity in the question and response
2. Discuss the word translated øSecretö ó The original word is pil-eeø or paw-leeö taken from the root word paw-lawø. It means øwonderful.ö We have the sense that our Lord is saying, øWhy do you ask because it is a secret.ö But the word, meaning wonderful, suggests (perhaps as He had indicated to Jacob who named the place Peniel, meaning øface of Godö), that our Lord is communicating that youøre before One who is too wonderful for you to comprehend until I choose to reveal it ó which He does as the passage proceeds.
3. The word øsecretö or wonderful carries the following connotations or descriptions, relating the sense of the word as I discovered it to be in my study: Marvelous, distinguished from all others, separate, made singular, great, remarkable, hidden (as in secret). The sense is that this Oneø name or identity is to be held in awe, a wonder that is unique to Him and Him alone.

III. Isaiah 9:6-7 (where this same word, øwonderfulö is used to describe our Lord). (Read)

A. His Person (vs. 6a):

1. øA Child is bornö ó Declaration of His humanity, speaking of His virgin birth.
2. øA Son is givenö ó Speaking of Deity of Christ, who is co-equal with the Father and the Sprit. His Deity cannot be and was not created. He is God is Human flesh ó Immanuel, meaning God with us.

III. Isa 9:6-7 / A. His Person (vs 6a) (Con't.):

3. So Christ is identified, and distinguished here beginning with the constitution of His Person. Herein we are told that He is wonderful, unique, remarkable, and distinguished from all counterfeits as One who has all the qualities of both true, essential Deity and true humanity, except without sin. And all He came to do in fulfillment of His mission to establish a righteousness for His people He did in His entire Person as God-man.

B. His Work (vs. 6b and 7a)

1. "Government upon His shoulder" refers to the kingdom of God, the government of His reign of grace. So we see that the establishment, the continuance, the increase, and the everlasting perfection of this kingdom are totally and completely upon HIS shoulder meaning all of salvation is conditioned on Christ and Him alone.
2. Because of who He is, the God-man, He is indeed "wonderful" in that the stability, the increase, the eternity of this reign of grace is sure and certain.
3. Vs. 7: "Established with judgment & justice" This speaks of the very righteousness through which grace reigns (Rom. 5:21) That is, grace reigns by the perfect satisfaction to God's law and justice (in both precept and penalty) in satisfaction to all that God's holiness demands!

C. His Identity as Mediator (vs. 6b): as these names describe Him in His Person & in His office as Mediator (as Prophet, Priest, and King).

1. "Wonderful" vs. "Wonderful Counselor" comments: Note that here the word is *peh-leh* derived from the same root word of Judges 13, *paw-law*. Some believe that the comma inserted by the translators does not belong. Either way, "wonderful" describes our Savior for He is "wonderful" in all things, including as a Counselor, etc.
2. "Wonderful" because of (1) His Person, Immanuel as both God and man in One Person. & (2) Because of His awesome and glorious work that He undertook.
3. "Counselor" The very wisdom of the Father. Christ is said to have learned of Him. What better counsel could we have since we only know the Father by the Son. In His Person and work alone we have revealed unto us the glory of God the Father as a just God and a Savior. He is a "wonderful counselor" indeed.
4. "The Mighty God" Again speaking of His Deity. There is only One God though He subsists in 3 persons and as God He is indeed "wonderful."
5. "The Everlasting Father" Not to be confused with the 1st Person of the Trinity here but rather speaks of His relationship to His people as those He came to save. He gives spiritual and eternal life to all His offspring and is the Head of the family and its legal representative. And this "wonderful" everlasting father acts as such in providing, protecting, chastising, and eternally caring for His own.

6. ðThe prince of Peaceø

(a) His righteousness ó that which He accomplished in the establishment of His kingdom at the cross is the only basis of peace between man and God.

(b) In Luke 2:14, the angels sang at the birth of Christ, ðGlory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.ö The literal translation would read, ðGlory í and on earth peace (meaning between God and man) among men with whom He is pleased.ö God is only pleased with those to whom He is reconciled and for whom peace has been made -- & that is totally based upon the righteousness He established in His finished work at the cross as the prince of peace. And this is indeed Godø highest glory for there, and there only, do we behold God as He is, as both a just God and a Savior. He is ðwonderfulö

D. From vs. 7b, The ðzealö (His glory) ó Itø this jealousy of His own glory that is the moving cause behind all that He does in performing His ðwonderfulö work of redemption.

IV. Judges 13:19-21: (Read Vs. 19-20): ó The angel did ðwondrously.ö This is the root word itself, paw-lawø And in verse 20 He describes this as His ascension in the flame ó arising like the sweet smelling incense from the altar that is pleasing to God. This ðwonderfulö Savior indeed would come in time and do ðwondrouslyö in perfect satisfaction to God as evidenced by His very ascension or resurrection from the dead.

V. Judges 13:22-23: Manoah & His Wifeø Reaction to this:

A. Note that when one is confronted with a holy God, He finds nothing to recommend Himself but believes that God will surely have to kill Him, a sinner, for there is nothing within to establish peace for ourselves with God ó We must have the merit of what the ðPrince of Peaceø establishes for us.

B. But note particularly the comfort His wife received ó the offering would not have been received (as evidenced by His ascension) and ðneither would he have showed us all these things.ö Turn to / read John 6 and read **John 6:37, 40, & 45.**

VI. Summary:

- A. Has God shown you these things of wonder that are secret or hidden to our natural minds and hearts?
- B. *“Baby in a Manger” Discussion:* During this season, passages such as I referenced in Luke 2 and Isaiah 9 referring to our Savior’s birth will be read in innumerable churches all over this land. And many will speak of this *“child”* who was born in a manger. Babies are cuddly. They are helpless little creatures but we ooh and aah over them and imagine what they will become. But sadly, so many fail to see the wonder, the uniqueness of this One who was born. Instead, they worship one they call a savior but who in reality they consider helpless to save them apart from their compliance *“*apart from their signing onto an imagined treaty of peace as they assume they can make their peace with God.
- C. As the Isa 9 text proceeded, in the context we saw that the mention of the child was to point to His incarnation and the union of humanity with Deity in the Person of Christ. And the emphasis on the passage is not the wonder of human birth but the wonder of (1) Who He is (God and man) & (2) What He accomplished. As Manoah and his wife saw, He did wondrously in establishing His kingdom with judgment and justice.
- D. Today, I pray that we may fall down like Manoah and His wife in awe and wonder as they behold God’s glory and see that apart from the pleasing sacrifice of this one (and on that basis alone) that they too shall not be able to stand before a Holy God. That we will grasp the absolute necessity that peace with God can only be found in the Prince of Peace *“*in the peace or reconciliation He established in His *“doing wondrously”* in His life and death on the cross.
- E. *“For Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called wonderful...”*

What a Wonderful Savior!

Footnote from the author: While this sermon was prepared and delivered by me, I often utilize the commentaries, study helps, and teachings of others to supplement my own prayerful study of the scriptures. Since this document was not originally prepared for publication in print, please excuse and recognize that it was unfeasible to properly identify and credit all of the various original sources used to develop the content herein. Ultimately, it is my sincere and foremost objective to accurately present the gospel of God’s grace found in the only infallible source, God’s word itself *“*the Bible.