

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM FEBRUARY 23, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Judges 13:3-6

“Then the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and give birth to a son. Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing. For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”



When it comes to biblical characters who seem larger than life, Samson breaks the mold. The introduction of Samson in fact requires all of Judges 13. This introduction is the most lengthy and detailed introduction of any of Israel’s judges. More attention is devoted to Samson, the last judge of the Book of Judges, than to any other judge in this book. Our job as students of the Scripture is to discover why the author felt this lengthy introduction was necessary.

The story of Samson is a beautiful example of how God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility inter-mesh. There are many who feel it necessary to embrace one or the other – God’s sovereignty or human responsibility – but not both. But our text demonstrates both principles at work at the same time. Samson is a man who must, and does, make choices. These choices are almost always sinful and self-serving. And yet God purposed and promised that Samson would begin to deliver Israel from bondage to the Philistines. And that is exactly what God did, through a disobedient and pleasure-seeking Samson.

Do not think that God’s sovereignty removes all freedom of choice from men, or accountability for those choices. God’s sovereignty is so complete that He can give men freedom and yet still be in complete control of His world. We who are parents know (or will soon learn) that it is impossible for us to have complete and total control of our children. When we seek to exercise control, we do so by limiting our children’s freedoms. We confine them to their rooms and take away their car keys, cell phones, and computers. But even then we are not in complete control. God is able to give men the freedom to make choices and yet still be in control, so that we are assured that His purposes will be realized. That is illustrated by God’s use of Samson, even though he is sinfully self-indulgent.

If Judges 13 gets our hopes up about Samson and what will happen in his life, Chapters 14-16 will bring us down to reality. But the good news for those who place their hope and faith in Jesus Christ find out it is even better than they might have imagined. Jesus will never disappoint us nor will He will never fail. His deliverance is truly “wonderful,” and it lasts forever. I pray that you have already placed your trust in Him.

Sunrise Community Church

Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst

EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™
<http://www.hymntime.com/>

Be Thou My Vision

Text: <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/b/e/t/bethoumv.htm>
 Music: <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/s/l/a/slane.mid>

“When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal Myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams.”

Numbers 12:6

Words: *Attributed to Dallan Forgaill (Rob tu mo bhoile, a Comdi cride); translated from ancient Irish to English by Mary E. Byrne in Eriú, Journal of the School of Irish Learning, 1905, and versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.*

Music: *Slane, of Irish folk origin*

Slane Hill is about ten miles from Tara in County Meath. It was on Slane Hill around 433 AD that St. Patrick defied a royal edict by lighting candles on Easter Eve. High King Logaire of Tara had decreed that no one could light a fire before Logaire began the pagan spring festival by lighting a fire on Tara Hill. Logaire was so impressed by Patrick's devotion that, despite his defiance (or perhaps because of it), he let him continue his missionary work. The rest is history.

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
 Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
 Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
 I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
 Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
 Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle shield, sword for the fight;
 Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight;
 Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tower:
 Raise Thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
 Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
 High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
 May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's sun!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 Still be my vision, O ruler of all.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

March 2014

MARCH 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

February 2014

- Feb. 23 8:45 a.m. Judges 13:1 to 25: Sampson's Silver Spoon
- 10:30 a.m. Pastor Andy Teaching at Westminster Presbyterian Church
How Are We Supposed to Get it All Done? The Nature of Spiritual Gifts
- 12 Noon Camellia Festival- Temple City Park
- Feb. 25 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Ephesians; at Kikkert's home
- Feb. 28 7:00 p.m. Game Night

March 2014

- March 2 8:45 a.m. The Lion, The Wench, & The Wardrobe Judges 14-15
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- March 5 Ash Wednesday
- March 4 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Philippians; at Kikkert's home
- March 7 7:00 p.m. Game Night
- March 9 8:45 a.m. Bringing Down the House Judges 16
- 10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- March 11 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Philippians; at Kikkert's home
- March 14 6:30 p.m. Friday Night Fellowship
- March 16 8:45 a.m. Doing What is Right In Your Own Eyes Judges 17-18
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 18 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Philippians; at Kikkert's home
- March 21 7:00 p.m. Game Night
- March 23 8:45 a.m. Israel's Sodom & Gomorrah Judges 19-21
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- March 25 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Philippians; at Kikkert's home
- March 28 6:30 p.m. Friday Night Fellowship

Coptic Pope Tawadros and Saudi ambassador agree to open Saudi Arabia's first church

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A reliable source has told Mideast Christian News that Pope Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of Saint Mark's Episcopate, has reached an agreement with the Saudi ambassador in Cairo, Ahmed Kattan, to establish the first church ever built inside Saudi Arabia.