

I. A Long Season of Loss (1-2)

A. It was a season of spiritual rebellion (1a) – “And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord...”

B. It was a season of national oppression (1b) – “...the Lord gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.”

C. It was a season of personal struggle (2) – “There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children.”

II. An Unexpected Elevation of Hope (3-7)

A. Angelic interruption (3) – “And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.”

B. Precise instruction (4-5) – “Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, ⁵ for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.”

C. Cascading information (6-7) – “Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name, ⁷ but he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’”

III. An Unfolding Expectation for Breakthrough (8-12)

A. Manoah pressed in for a personal word (8) – “Then Manoah prayed to the Lord and said, O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born.”

B. The angel drew out desire through delay (9-10) – “And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field. But Manoah her husband was not with her. ¹⁰ So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, “Behold, the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me.”

C. Manoah said yes to the offer of hope (11-12) – “And Manoah arose and went after his wife and came to the man and said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to this woman?” And he said, “I am.” ¹² And Manoah said, Now when your words come true, what is to be the child's manner of life, and what is his mission?”