

Raising Up Children

Part 2

Scripture will teach us more about how to raise Children. We will be going through Scripture to grasp more keen views and further understanding for this matter:

1- The Parents of Samson: *“1 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. 2 A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth. 3 The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, “You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. 4 Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. 5 You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.” 6 Then the woman went to her husband and told him, “A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God, very awesome. I didn’t ask him where he came from, and he didn’t tell me his name. 7 But he said to me, ‘You will become pregnant and have a son. Now then, drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite of God from the womb until the day of his death.’ ” 8 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD: “Pardon your servant, Lord. I beg you to let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born.” 9 God heard Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman while she was out in the field; but her husband Manoah was not with her. 10 The woman hurried to tell her husband, “He’s here! The man who appeared to me the other day!” 11 Manoah got up and followed his wife. When he came to the man, he said, “Are you the man who talked to my wife?” “I am,” he said. 12 So Manoah asked him, “When your words are fulfilled, what is to be the rule that governs the boy’s life and work?” 13 The angel of the LORD answered, “Your wife must do all that I have told her. 14 She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, nor drink any wine or other fermented drink nor eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have commanded her.” (Judges 13:1-14)*

In the above Scripture, Manoah and his wife were barren and were longing to have a baby. The angel of the Lord instructed her how to raise the child. *“4 Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean.”* She was instructed that she and the child will not take any fermented drink, grapes or any unclean things for the child that to be borne will be set aside for God as a Nazirite. Now you need to understand that for you to raise a godly child, yourself, need to abstain from certain sinful things so you can instruct your son or daughter to abstain from the same. You cannot tell your children do not watch TV, movies, playing video games, wasting time on facebook, etc, while you are still doing. You cannot tell your children do not drink Alcohol, do not smoke, do not eat too much, and do not spend much while yourself are not observing that in your life. You cannot teach your children the things that you are not practicing. There are things that are unclean and that will impart sin and wickedness in your life. That very thing you

should not keep or entertain in your life and in the life of your family if you are still interested and desiring to live in holiness for God. Holiness is not only something that man desire but it is a mandatory matter because *“Without holiness no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14c)*

The angel further told her that her child will be fully dedicated to God, *“5 You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”* Now you must understand that when God gives you a child the Lord wants this child to be dedicated unto Him. The child to be born to that family the Lord would use in the deliverance of His people from their enemies. In the same way when the Lord would give to any family a child the child will take a lead to get involved in the church leadership and be a leading person in the future, to lead his family, to lead the church of God, and the rest of people in righteousness and help them to get delivered out from the hand of Satan and its wicked schemes.

The angel told the woman about the coming child born to her, *“Whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite.”* A Nazirite when he is walking in public it will be very clear his status to everyone and he is distinguished by his long hair. Holiness should be so evident in our lives and in the lives of our family that will be easily seen and recognized, as Jesus said, *“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:20)*

Holiness should be desired, strived for and worked on diligently. When the woman told Manoah, her husband what had happened, *“8 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD: “Pardon your servant, Lord. I beg you to let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born.”* He prayed to God to send His servant so that he can teach them how to raise the child in the proper way to serve the purpose of God. The word of God in the bible, the Holy Spirit and the teachers and pastors of the church, all together are God’s instruments and aid for you to teach you and equip you to raise up your children in the way that ultimately God’s purpose will be fulfilled and served.

God honoured the prayer of Manoah, *“9 God heard Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman while she was out in the field; but her husband Manoah was not with her. 10 The woman hurried to tell her husband, “He’s here! The man who appeared to me the other day!”* God will grant your request if you show your genuine interest to obey Him and raise up your children in the fear of the Lord. *“12 So Manoah asked him, “When your words are fulfilled, what is to be the rule that governs the boy’s life and work?”* Manoah was aware that there are rules that will govern his child life and work. You need to be aware that children have to be under rule and discipline and governed according to the word of God and His instructions in the bible. Rules not only to govern their lives while they are still dependent on the parents for their living but even, further in their lives when they are adult and mature and working to support themselves, the godly parents still they have rule to play over the lives of their children. In KJV verse 12 is read as the following: *“12 And Manoah said , Now let thy words come to pass . How shall we order the child, and how shall we do*

unto him?" Monoah asked and said, ***How shall we order the child?*** So there are orders and commands you need to train your children on.

Manoah was the head of his family and he needed to lead his wife and ultimately will be able with his wife to govern the coming child well. Adam was the head of the family but he did not lead his wife well. Although he was the one who had given the word of God but he did not govern his wife well. He did not ask and enquire about the source of the fruit that the woman brought to him. Manoah although God revealed Himself to his wife, Monoah still desired to hear himself again and from God. He took the responsibility of the family and to raise the coming child upon Himself. That what God would expect from him and from you as well. ***"13 The angel of the LORD answered, "Your wife must do all that I have told her. 14 She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, nor drink any wine or other fermented drink nor eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have commanded her."*** God gave him the authority and the responsibility over his wife to watch her to do everything that she was commanded to do. God told Manoah about his wife that, ***"must do everything I have commanded her,"*** And in this way Manoah was re-commissioned to lead his family in the righteousness of God and His word. The Lord Jesus also re-commissioned the man to lead his family in the righteousness of God and His word, ***"25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word."*** (Ephesians 5:25-26)

My Dear and Beloved: Your children are God's children, and He gave them to you in order to raise them up in a the prescribed way that they would finally serve Him and take the lead to do the will of God and the work of God and be His instrument to deliver mankind from the peril of sin and devil. To this you are called as parents and God wants you to desire to put your hand with Him and do properly your part as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that clearly declare to me your will and your good plan for me and my family. I repent from the following sins _____ . Lord I accept your calling and commission to me to lead my family and to raise up godly children, who will be servants of yours to lead others in righteousness. Lord equip me more and provide for me to continue to do your work and your will, this is my prayer in Jesus name. Amen.*

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"24 And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew , and the LORD blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol."

(Judges 13:24-25)

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