

Series: Questions

Title: Why Askest Thou My Name?

Text: Judges 13: 18

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Judges 13: 18: And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?

Our text is another question asked by the LORD to a sinner. This Angel of the LORD is a pre-incarnate appearance of the man, Christ Jesus. We know this because Christ is the Messenger sent from God to his people. The word “angel” means messenger.

Malachi 3: 1: ...the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in:

We know this is Christ, “For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (1 Tim 2: 5)

We know this is Christ by his name—“the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it *is* secret?” “Secret” means “absolutely and supremely wonderful” “surpassing and separate by distinguishing action.” It expresses the character of his name and nature which is infinite and incomprehensible. It is written concerning Christ:

Isaiah 9: 6: 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,...

“Wonderful” is the same word translated “secret” in our text. Christ is wonderful because in his person he is God and man. He is wonderful because his incarnation passes knowledge. Christ is Wonderful because of his offices and relations to his people: our Prophet, Priest and King; our Lamb, Altar, and Mercy Seat; the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is wonderful because of his unchangeable love to his people—love that passes knowledge. Christ is secret, wonderful in all he is and has done for his people: our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption; our All and in all.

Pro 30: 4: Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what *is* his name, and what *is* his son’s name, if thou canst tell?

In this passage, Christ announces the birth of Samson. In all that Christ said and did in this passage he teaches us why his name is Wonderful.

THE REASON HE CAME

We see Christ is wonderful due to the reason he came into the world—**Judges 13: 1: And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years. 2: And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah;...**

The reason Christ came is because, like Israel, all God’s elect did evil *in the sight of the LORD*. Due to our sin in Adam, God delivered us into the hand of our enemies. Yet, God’s love for his people in Christ never

changed. Wonderful! Like Israel, until Christ came, we had no way of deliverance from bondage. Christ came to “deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” (Heb 2: 15)

We see the two things Christ came to accomplish for his people. Samson was born “of the family of the Danites.” Dan means judgment. Remember the blessing of God Jacob pronounced to Dan?

Gen 49: 16: Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel.

Christ came to settle judgment for his people and against those who think themselves righteous without him.

John 9:39: And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

Samson’s father was “Manoah.” It means rest. Christ came to give rest to his people by taking all our heavy burdens off our shoulders.

Isaiah 9:6...the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful,...

Matthew 11: 28: Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Is anyone here laboring to be accepted of God? Are you heavy laden with all your religious works and fears of judgment? Christ settled Judgment for his people. Believe on Christ and he will freely give you rest. You shall find sweet, sweet rest for your soul.

THE HOLY SON

We see Christ is wonderful because he is the holy, consecrated, Son of God’s promise from eternity. Like Samson, Christ’s birth was a miracle of God’s power and grace, promised beforehand by God—**Judges 13: 2...and his wife was barren, and bare not. 3: And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.**

She had no way of conceiving life or bringing forth fruit—she was barren and bare not. But God appeared in Christ and declared a promise to her—“Behold now, thou *art* barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.”

Just as the angel came to Mary first and then to her husband, here the Angel of the Lord came first to Manoah’s wife and then to him. Mary was a virgin.

Luke 1: 30: And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary:...31:...behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Like Samson, Christ was the special gift of God, the promise of God and he came forth by divine intervention.

Throughout scripture we find several mothers give birth by the promise of God, by the gift of God, by the miracle of God’s power and grace: Isaac, Joseph, Samuel, John the Baptist, and the preeminent Christ Jesus the Lord. The life God gives is not of us—God’s elect are barren, unable to produce life and bring forth fruit. The life God gives is a gift in Christ the unspeakable gift. The life God gives is by the promise of God—God promised Christ the Seed in the garden; God promised Christ to Abraham, typified in Isaac. The life God gives

is by the miracle of God's power and grace. The life God gives is in Christ Jesus the Son of God's promise, the Son of God's power, the Son of God's grace.

Isaiah 54: 1: Sing, O barren! thou *that* didst not bear break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou *that* didst not travail with child: for more *are* the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD....5: For thy Maker *is* thine husband; the LORD of hosts *is* his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

Christ is wonderful because he was separated and consecrated to God before as yet he came forth—**Judges 13: 4: Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: 5: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.**

A Nazarite was made by God separating him to serve God in God's purpose. The reason Samson was sanctified by God before his birth was the merciful promise and purpose of God to save his people—"he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." So it was with our Lord Jesus Christ. The Angel who announced the coming of our great Redeemer said almost the very same thing in Matthew 1:21.

Matthew 1:21: And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

God sanctified Christ in eternity and sent him forth being the holy, spotless, consecrated, promised Son of God who came forth in sinless consecration to God and lived all his days pleasing God. God sent him into this world in great mercy to his elect, to save his people, because in Christ, God promised eternal life to his elect before the world began.

2 Timothy 1:1: Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,...

Titus 1:2: In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;...

Brethren, do not be fooled by those who point sinners to themselves as their sanctification. Christ is the Holy One. Our Sanctifier and our Sanctification. We in him and he in us—we are as holy as he. Let us follow him in faith and love and honor and praise.

FAITHFULNESS UNTO THE CROSS

We see Christ is wonderful by his faithfulness unto his great sacrifice on the cross. Christ is wonderful in that he is the only perfectly faithful Son of God—**Judges 13: 15: And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee. 16: And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD. For Manoah knew not that he *was* an angel of the LORD.**

Christ was willing for Manoah to detain him. Thankfully, Christ is willing to stop for sinners in need. This is how Christ is faithful to God, it is by being faithful to his people. But Christ told Manoah, "I will not eat of thy bread."

John 4:34: Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Christ taught Manoah, as he does all those he saves, “if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD.” Christ is our Prophet. Christ is our Shepherd, our Pastor. He is faithful to teach each of his people who God is and how he will only receive that which is holy and righteous.

But how can any sinner or anything from a sinner be accepted of God? It is no accident that this is where Manoah asks his name—because a sinner can only be accepted in the name of our Wonderful Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12: Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

The reason Christ is Wonderful and his people are accepted in him is because of Christ’s sacrifice as our Substitute—**Judges 13: 19: So Manoah took** [Manoah was not a priest or a highpriest. But Christ is the Highpriest who makes all his people priests unto God by his blood in whom we can approach God] **a kid with a meat offering, and offered it** [Christ is the only Lamb and the only Offering we offer to God] **upon a rock unto the LORD:** [Christ is our Altar whose holy eternity made infinite satisfaction to God so that we and our worship are accepted unto the LORD as perfect and holy] **and the angel did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on.** [Christ did it all wondrously upon the cross and his people did nothing, we look upon Christ and his finished work that is all. But once satisfaction was made, justice satisfied, Christ did wondrously by ascending to God into heaven] **20: For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar.**

Our all-glorious Christ did wondrously for us at Calvary. Christ the Lamb gave himself to be slain in our place under the fire of God’s justice. Christ our Altar made his sacrifice of infinite worth and satisfaction to God for us. Having satisfied justice by his precious blood, Christ did wondrously as he ascended to God’s right hand before many witnesses!

WHY PREACH THIS?

We preach Christ’s wonderful name because he is worthy of all reverence—**Judges 14: 6: Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible:**

Indeed Christ is to be feared, to be revered, to be worshipped. The beginning of fear for our Lord is the beginning of Wisdom, which is when of God Christ is made unto us Wisdom.

We preach Christ’s Wonderful name because it is not by our questions but by this gospel that he reveals himself to his people—**Judges 14: 6:...but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name:**

There was no need to ask because Christ told her his name by revealing his mission and his sacrifice. So we preach Christ crucified and through this he reveals his name to his people.

We preach this gospel of Christ because God is willing to be entreated by all who desire to know Christ—**Judges 14: 8: Then Manoah intreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. 9: And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her.**

God is faithful to be entreated. He will make all his people know Christ. But he will do so through the woman, the church, through his gospel. Be not as Manoah. Be with the bride of Christ, under the sound of his gospel, that you might not miss Christ.

We preach Christ because this is the gospel God will have us to run with and declare to those in need—**Judges 14: 10: And the woman made haste, and ran, and shewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the *other* day. 11: And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, *Art* thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, *I am*. 12: And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass.**

Let us run as Manoah's wife. Let us heed the good news with haste as he did.

We preach Christ because when Christ reveals himself to his child that is when we will truly worship him—**Judges 14: 20: And Manoah and his wife looked on, and fell on their faces to the ground. 21...Then Manoah knew that he *was* an angel of the LORD.**

Salvation is in a look—believing on Christ. Then you shall know and worship him.

We preach Christ because he is the one who gives us wonderful rest and peace knowing we shall be saved—**Judges 14: 22: And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God. 23 But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these *things*, nor would as at this time have told us *such things* as these. 24: And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. (Jud 13:1-24)**

Seeing Christ through faith, we have seen God. If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received us in Christ, neither would he have shewed us all these *things concerning Christ*, nor would as at this time have told us all these precious promises in Christ. Just as God's promise in Christ came to pass to Manoah and his wife, so all God's promises are to us, yes and amen in Christ.

Amen!