

PLEASE NOTE - The references below are taken from the 86-21 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

*** es21 May ***

May

Saturday, May 1

Instruct us about what we should do with the child.—Judg. 13:8.

What can parents do to help their children learn to love Jehovah? Pray for Jehovah's help, as Manoah did. Also, teach by example. What you say is important; however, what you do will likely have a bigger impact on your child. We can be sure that Joseph and Mary set an excellent example for their children, including Jesus. Joseph worked hard to support his family. In addition, Joseph encouraged his household to appreciate spiritual things. (Deut. 4:9, 10) He took his family with him to Jerusalem "from year to year" to celebrate the Passover. (Luke 2:41, 42) Some fathers in his day may have viewed such a family trip as inconvenient, time-consuming, and expensive. Yet, Joseph obviously appreciated spiritual things and taught his children to do the same. Also, Mary knew the Scriptures well. By her words and actions, she no doubt taught her children to love God's Word. w19.12 24-25 ¶9-12

(Judges 13:18) 18 However, Jehovah's angel said to him: "Why are you asking about my name, seeing that it is a wonderful one?"

*** w13 8/1 p. 10 Why Are Some Bible Characters Left Unnamed? ***

For instance, an angel was asked by Manoah, the father of Samson: "What is your name, that when your word comes true we shall certainly do you honor?" The response? "Just why should you ask about my name?" Modestly, that angel refused to accept honor that was due only to God.—Judges 13:17, 18.

*** it-2 p. 466 Name ***

Names of Angels. The Bible contains the personal names of only two angels, Gabriel (meaning "Able-Bodied One of God") and Michael (Who Is Like God?). Perhaps so as not to receive undue honor or veneration, angels at times did not reveal their names to persons to whom they appeared.—Ge 32:29; Jg 13:17, 18.

(Judges 14:6) 6 Then Jehovah's spirit empowered him, and he tore it in two, just as someone tears a young goat in two with his bare hands. But he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.

*** w05 1/15 p. 31 Questions From Readers ***

Does the statement that Samson ripped apart a lion "just as someone tears a male kid in two" suggest that the tearing apart of young goats was a common practice in his day?

There is no evidence that in the time of Israel's Judges, it was common for people to tear apart young goats. Judges 14:6 states: "Jehovah's spirit became operative upon [Samson], so that he tore it [a maned young lion] in two, just as someone tears a male kid in two, and there was nothing at all in his hand." This comment likely is an illustration.

The expression "he tore it in two" could have two meanings. Samson either tore apart the jaws of the lion or tore the lion limb from limb in some way. If the former is meant, then doing the same thing to a young goat is conceivably within human power. In this case, the parallel illustrates that conquering a lion with his bare hands was no more difficult for Samson than had the lion been a mere male kid. However, what if Samson killed the lion by tearing it limb from limb? The comment then can hardly be taken as anything more than a simile. The point of the simile would be that Jehovah's spirit empowered Samson to perform a task that required extraordinary physical strength. In either case, the comparison drawn at Judges 14:6 illustrates that with Jeho-

vah's help, a powerful lion proved to be no more ferocious to Samson than a male kid would be to the average person.

*** it-2 p. 310 Manoah ***

MANOAH

(Ma·no'ah).

A Danite man of the Shephelah town of Zorah (Jos 15:33) and the father of Judge Samson. Manoah was a devout worshiper of Jehovah.

One day an angel appeared to Manoah's barren wife, announcing that she would give birth to a son who would be a Nazirite of God. Upon being informed of this, Manoah supplicated Jehovah, asking him to send the messenger again in order to instruct them on raising the child. Jehovah answered the prayer and sent the angel a second time. When Manoah offered to set a meal before the messenger, he was told to render up a burnt offering to Jehovah instead, which he did. It was after this messenger ascended in the flame rising from the altar that Manoah recognized him as being Jehovah's angel. Because of having had this experience, Manoah feared that he and his wife would die. But she allayed his fear, saying: "If Jehovah had been delighted only to put us to death, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering from our hand, and he would not have shown us all these things, and he would not as now have let us hear anything like this."—Jg 13:2-23.