

## Judges 13

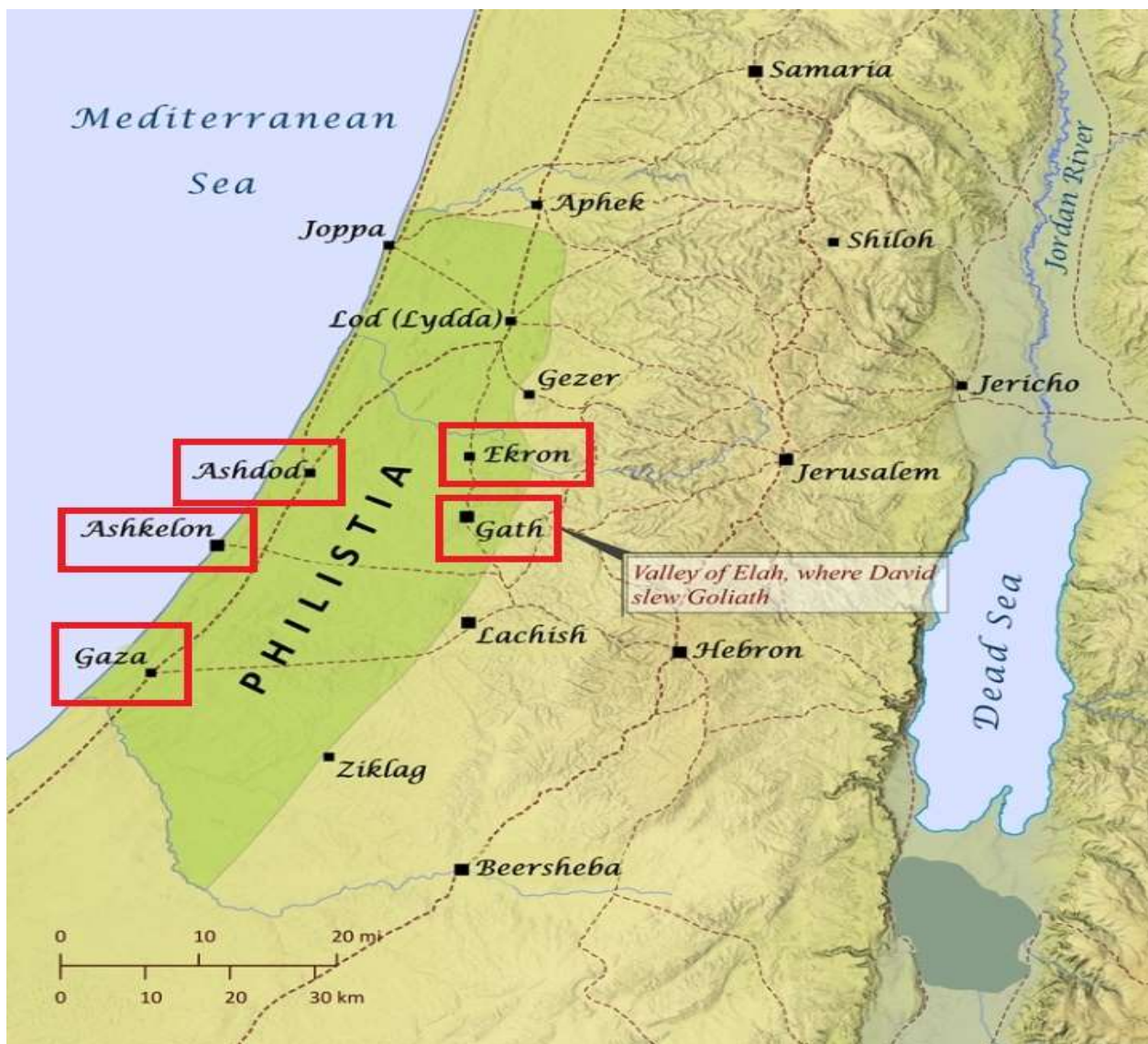
### Verse 1

Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, so that the Lord gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.

With the other judges, there was distress leading to cries for deliverance but here that is missing.

The Philistines ruled the land west of Judah along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

See map 1305



The Philistines were descended from a grandson of Ham.

See Genesis 10:6, 14

<sup>6</sup> The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

<sup>13</sup> Mizraim fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, <sup>14</sup> Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines), and Caphtorim.

Their ancestors migrated to Palestine from Crete.

See map 1310



The Philistines were a continual threat to Israel. Not even the victories of David removed the Philistines from their five major cities which included Gaza, Gath, Ekron, Ashdod and Ashkelon. However, Nebuchadnezzar defeated the Philistine people, deporting them in 604 B.C.

The religion of the Philistines was a constant threat to the Israelites.

The Philistines worshiped three gods; Dagon, Ashtaroth, and Baal-Zebub. Each of which had shrines in various cities.

1. Dagon                      See Judges 16:23

<sup>23</sup> Now the governors of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to celebrate, for they said, “Our god has handed Samson our enemy over to us.”

2. Ashtaroth                See 1 Samuel 31:10

<sup>10</sup> They put his weapons in the temple of Ashtaroth, and they nailed his body to the wall of Beth-shan.

3. Baal-Zebub            See 2 Kings 1:2

<sup>2</sup> And Ahaziah fell through the *window* lattice in his upper chamber which was in Samaria, and became ill. So he sent messengers and said to them, “Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I will recover from this sickness.”

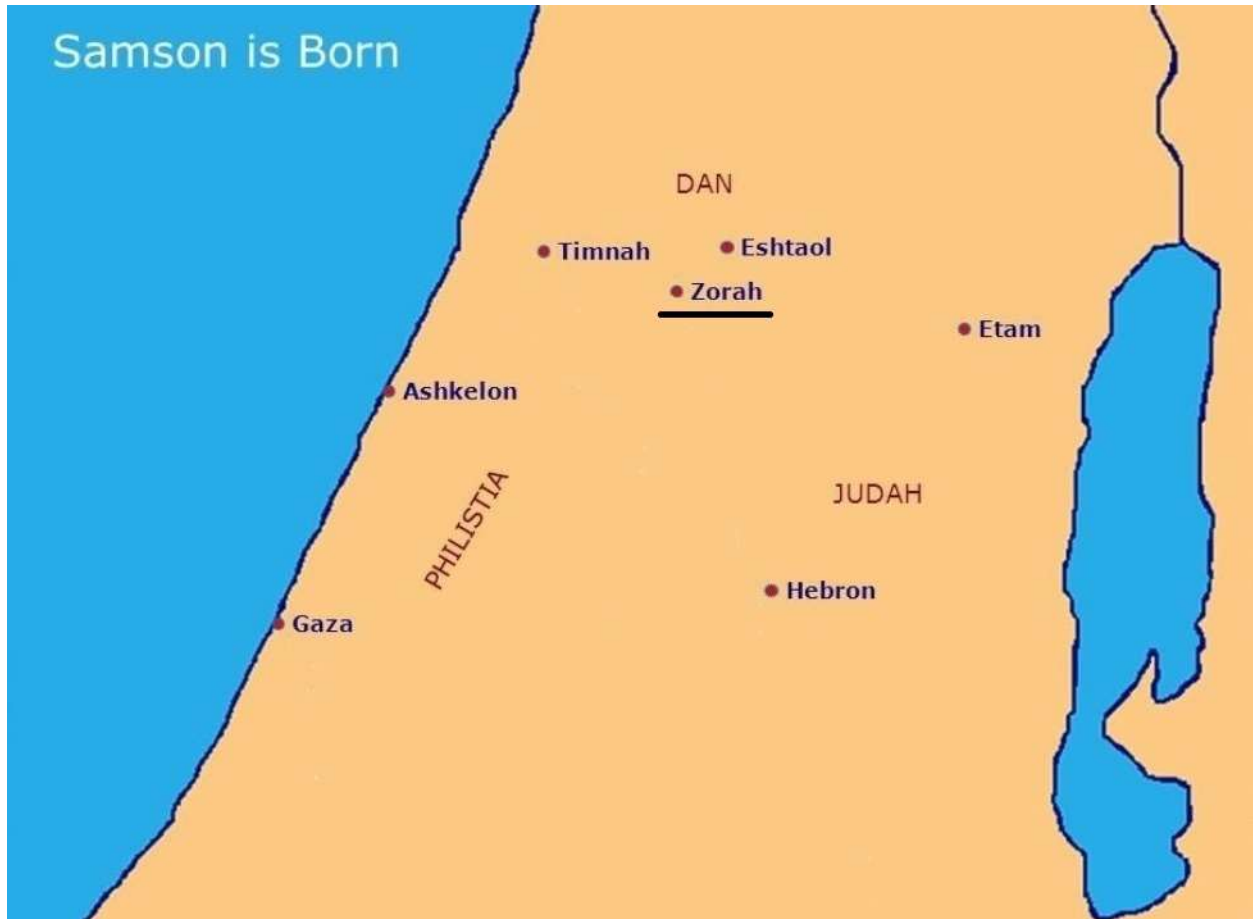
However, Dagon was the principal deity of the Philistines. According to ancient mythology, Dagon was the father of Baal.

Verses 2 - 7

<sup>2</sup> There was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had borne no *children*. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing. <sup>5</sup> 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.” <sup>6</sup> Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, “A man of God came to me and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. And I did not ask him where he *came* from, nor did he tell me his name. <sup>7</sup> But he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and now you shall not drink wine or strong drink nor eat any unclean thing, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

<sup>2</sup> There was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had borne no *children*.

See Map 1315



<sup>3</sup> 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.

How many times in the Old Testament has a woman who suffered through years of being childless and was then blessed with a child of great importance.

<sup>4</sup> Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing.

The words strong drink must mean beer, because there were no distilled liquors in ancient times.

**<sup>5</sup> 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**

The Mosaic Law concerning Nazarites is found in Numbers 6:1-21.

But the rules given there apply to persons taking the Nazarite vow for a limited number of days or weeks. Samson was a Nazarite for life.

Verses 8 - 14

**<sup>8</sup> Then Manoah entreated the Lord and said, “O Lord, please let the man of God whom You have sent come to us again that he may teach us what to do for the boy who is to be born.” <sup>9</sup> God listened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again to the woman as she was sitting in the field, but Manoah her husband was not with her. <sup>10</sup> So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, “Behold, the man who came the *other* day has appeared to me.” <sup>11</sup> Then Manoah arose and followed his wife, and when he came to the man he said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to the woman?” And he said, “I am.” <sup>12</sup> Manoah said, “Now when your words come *to pass*, what shall be the boy’s mode of life and his vocation?” <sup>13</sup> So the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Let the woman pay attention to all that I said. <sup>14</sup> She should not eat anything that comes from the vine nor drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing; let her observe all that I commanded.”**

**<sup>8</sup> Then Manoah entreated the Lord and said, “O Lord, please let the man of God whom You have sent come to us again that he may teach us what to do for the boy who is to be born.**

The angel of the Lord (Christ) came to the wife first but when her husband asked the Father for a second visit it was granted.

**<sup>12</sup> Manoah said, “Now when your words come *to pass*, what shall be the boy’s mode of life and his vocation?**

Did the angel of the Lord answer Manoah’s question? No.

God just repeated the instructions he had already given to Manoah’s wife.



Verses 15 - 20

**<sup>15</sup> Then Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “Please let us detain you so that we may prepare a young goat for you.” <sup>16</sup> The angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Though you detain me, I will not eat your food, but if you prepare a burnt offering, *then* offer it to the Lord.” For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the Lord. <sup>17</sup> Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “What is your name, so that when your words come *to pass*, we may honor you?” <sup>18</sup> But the angel of the Lord said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?” <sup>19</sup> So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering and offered it on the rock to the Lord, and He performed wonders while Manoah and his wife looked on. <sup>20</sup> For it came about when the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, that the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar. When Manoah and his wife saw *this*, they fell on their faces to the ground.**

**<sup>15</sup> Then Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “Please let us detain you so that we may prepare a young goat for you.**

Only 6 people, as far as we know, were permitted to see the Angel of The Lord.

Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Manoah and his wife, and Zechariah

**<sup>16</sup> The angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Though you detain me, I will not eat your food, but if you prepare a burnt offering, *then* offer it to the Lord.” For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the Lord.**

The angel of the Lord must have appeared to Manoah and his wife in a way that did not give away His divine nature.

**<sup>17</sup> Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “What is your name, so that when your words come *to pass*, we may honor you?” <sup>18</sup> But the angel of the Lord said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?”**

See Isaiah 9:6

**For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us;  
And the government will rest on His shoulders;  
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.**

One of Jesus's names is Wonderful Counselor

What do you suppose Jewish people thought about two of the other names?

Mighty God and Eternal Father

It would have been interesting to be in that bible study.

**<sup>20</sup> For it came about when the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, that the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar.**

Up to this point Manoah and his wife had no idea who they were talking to.

This sign would have remained in their hearts and minds the rest of their lives.

**When Manoah and his wife saw *this*, they fell on their faces to the ground.**

This may have been partly out of fear and an act of worship.

Verses 21 - 25

**<sup>21</sup> Now the angel of the Lord did not appear to Manoah or his wife again. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the Lord. <sup>22</sup> So Manoah said to his wife, "We will surely die, for we have seen God." <sup>23</sup> But his wife said to him, "If the Lord had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have let us hear *things* like this at this time." <sup>24</sup> Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and the Lord blessed him. <sup>25</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.**

**<sup>22</sup> So Manoah said to his wife, "We will surely die, for we have seen God.**

After seeing the miracle that took place they believed they had seen the Lord God.

This is also why Manoah thought both of them would die.

See Exodus 33:20 **<sup>20</sup> He further said, "You cannot see My face, for mankind shall not see Me and live!"**

<sup>23</sup> But his wife said to him, “If the Lord had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have let us hear things like this at this time.”

Manoah’s wife used some basic common sense to refute her husband’s thinking.

If they died after seeing God it would be rather pointless for God to visit them. Also, there would be no Samson.

Manoah’s wife also had a better spiritual understanding than her husband.

Moses talked with God face to face and didn’t die.

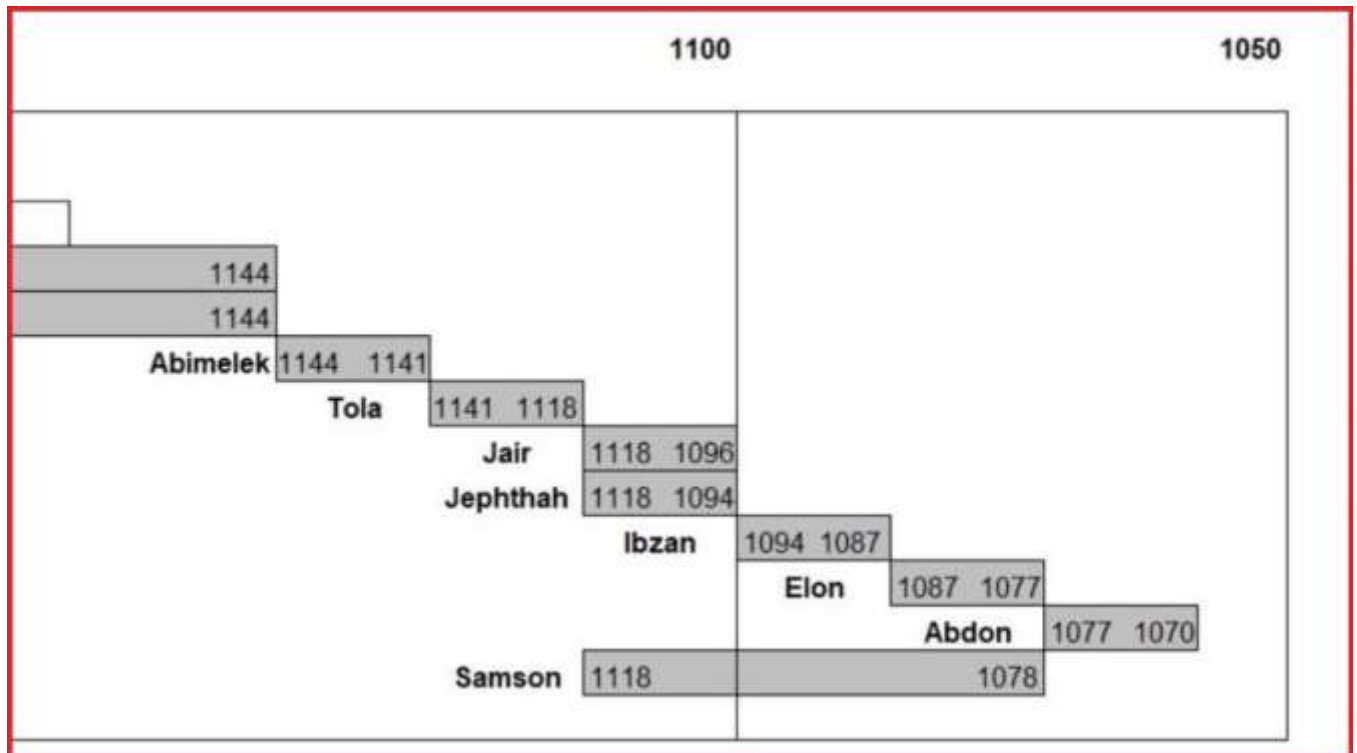
So what does Exodus 33:20 mean.

Seeing God vs seeing a representation of him are two different things.

<sup>24</sup> Then the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson; and the child grew up and the Lord blessed him.

**Judge # 12 SAMSON 1118 – 1078 BC**

See pic 1320





<sup>25</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

See map 1325

