

The Man of God 1 Kings 13 **(Slide 1)**

Reading: Deuteronomy 13:1-4
Galatians 1:6-9

In Chapter 12 of 1st Kings we see the division of God's chosen people taking place. **(Slide 2)** One kingdom is divided in two, a Northern Kingdom, which takes on the name of Israel and a Southern Kingdom, which takes on the name of Judah. It wasn't an amicable separation, but God bars the Kingdom of Judah from warring against Israel.

This division came about because of the Idolatry of Solomon. **(Slide 3)** Solomon listened to his many, and I mean many wives, some 700 to be exact and he built places of Idol worship. Because of that, the Kingdom would be taken from his son. God, in honoring David and because his place was in Jerusalem, gave Solomon's descendants one tribe.

Ten tribes became the Northern Nation, Israel and Jeroboam ruled as King. **(Slide 4)** Jeroboam had once served in Solomon's kingdom and the Bible calls him a "valiant" warrior. His kingship was foretold by the prophet Ahijah who met him on the road. To illustrate the

upcoming division of God's people, **(Slide 5)** Ahijah grabbed the new cloak that he was wearing and ripped it into twelve pieces. This signified the division of the 12 tribes that were once one nation.

Ahijah explained the circumstance to Jeroboam and told him to follow the Word of the Lord and all would be well with him. If he followed God, He would make his house like that of the house of David, who did not and would not serve Idols.

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While Solomon was still alive, he got wind of what the prophet told Jeroboam and sought to kill him. Jeroboam fled to Egypt and was in Egypt up until the time of his appointment as King. No doubt that the Idol worship that transpired in Egypt influenced him.

Jeroboam didn't listen to Ahijah the Prophet. He worshiped Idols. **(Slide 7)** In fact, he had two golden calves made and convinced the people, particularly those who wished to leave his Kingdom for the Southern Kingdom, that these are the "gods that brought you up out of Egyptian bondage."

1 Kings 12:28 (Slide 8)

28 So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt.”

Jeroboam constructed altars throughout the Kingdom. There were several that were far away and people would travel a great distance to worship these man made Idols.

1 Kings 12:30-31 (Slide 9)

30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went *to worship* before the one as far as Dan. **31** And he made houses on high places, and made priests from among all the people who were not of the sons of Levi.

The sin of Jeroboam was so great that a “man of God” from Judah was sent to him to pronounce judgment upon him.

1 Kings 13:1-3 (Slide 10)

13 Now behold, there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense. **2** He cried against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, “O altar, altar, thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, a son shall be born to the

house of David, Josiah by name; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.” **3** Then he gave a sign the same day, saying, “This is the sign which the Lord has spoken, ‘Behold, the altar shall be split apart and the ashes which are on it shall be poured out.’”

Jeroboam didn’t like what he heard. He was so arrogant and full of himself that he reached out his hand toward the man of God and said; “Seize Him!” (**Slide 11**) His hand, the hand that he stretched out to point at the man of God, dried up. The damage to his hand was so bad that he couldn’t pull it back which would indicate possibly some paralysis.

Jeroboam was at the altar that he had built when this occurred and just as the man of God predicted, the altar was destroyed. Jeroboam pleaded with the man of God to pray for him so that his hand would be restored. The man of God granted that request and the King’s hand returned to normal.

These incidents are revealed to us to prove that this Prophet who came to Jeroboam is indeed a “man of God.” It is extremely important to understand this fact because

what happens to the man of God is opposed to what our minds would expect.

King Jeroboam desired the man of God to be on his side. I believe he was a selfish, power hungry individual who relished having authority and rule over people. He used some political tactics to try and gain the Prophet's loyalty. He invited him to his home to refresh himself and the King said; you come with me and "I will give you a reward." The man of God refused the King's offer.

1 Kings 13:8-10 (**Slide 12**)

8 But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water in this place. **9** For so it was commanded me by the word of the Lord, saying, 'You shall eat no bread, nor drink water, nor return by the way which you came.'" **10** So he went another way and did not return by the way which he came to Bethel.

Here we see the man of God emphatically showing his loyalty to the word of God. But the rest of the life of this man of God is a lesson for all of God's people, even to this day.

There was an old Prophet that lived in Bethel and his sons came and reported all that the man of God had done that day in the town of Bethel and what he said to King Jeroboam. The old prophet asks his sons; "Which way did he go?" They told him and they saddled a donkey for him and he set out to find him. He found him sitting under an oak tree. He asked him if he was the man of God who came from Judah and then invited him to come home with him to eat a meal. Once again the man of God refused:

1 Kings 13:16-17 (**Slide 13**)

16 He said, "I cannot return with you, nor go with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. **17** For a command *came* to me by the word of the Lord, "You shall eat no bread, nor drink water there; do not return by going the way which you came."

Now I will tell you, I don't know for certain what the motives of the old prophet were at this point. Some say it was because of compassion that he offered to feed the man of God. He found him resting under the oak tree and since God wouldn't allow the man of God to eat or drink in this area, he appeared famished and the old prophet took pity on him.

I believe that God used the man of God as an example for us all. That is, “God says what He means and means what He says” and for good reason. Still, this is one of the most unique and difficult passages of scripture to understand. It seemed like such a small infraction the man of God committed.

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Whatever the reason, the old prophet lied to the man of God.

1 Kings 13:18-19 (Slide 15)

18 He said to him, “I also am a prophet like you, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.’” *But* he lied to him. **19** So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house and drank water.

The scripture here clearly states that the old prophet lied to him. Using our earthly view, we would think God would have struck down the old prophet for abusing his servant the way he did.

But that’s not what happened.

1 Kings 13:20-25 (Slide 16)

20 Now it came about, as they were sitting down at the table, that the word of the Lord came to the prophet who had brought him back; **21** and he cried to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, “Thus says the Lord, ‘Because you have disobeyed the command of the Lord, and have not observed the commandment which the Lord your God commanded you, **(Slide 17)** **22** but have returned and eaten bread and drunk water in the place of which He said to you, “Eat no bread and drink no water”; your body shall not come to the grave of your fathers.” **23** It came about after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, for the prophet whom he had brought back. **(Slide 18)** **24** Now when he had gone, a lion met him on the way and killed him, and his body was thrown on the road, with the donkey standing beside it; the lion also was standing beside the body. **25** And behold, men passed by and saw the body thrown on the road, and the lion standing beside the body; so they came and told *it* in the city where the old prophet lived.

Notice what has happened. God uses the old prophet to prophecy against the man of God. He says you're not going to make it home, you're going to die here. If I were the old prophet, I would be sweating bullets thinking, “What is God going to do to me?” But that doesn't seem to be the case at all.

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The lion tears into and mauls the man of God to death and throws him down on the road. Then the lion and the donkey stand together and look at the mangled body of the man of God. The lion, a fierce predator, doesn't devour the man nor does he attack and kill the donkey or the people who pass by. This says one thing and one thing only. God had a specific purpose for the lion and he carried it out.

The old prophet heard about what happened to the man of God and you would think that he would at least say within himself that, "I caused that. I told him a lie and he believed me. Up until that point he did exactly what God told him," But he didn't say or think that at all. He seemed to have had the attitude that, "Well he shouldn't have listened to me in the first place." It's as if he feels no responsibility whatsoever. He says in verse 26:

1 Kings 13:26 (Slide 20)

"It is the man of God, who disobeyed the command of the Lord; therefore the Lord has given him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke to him."

Seemingly he feels bad for the man of God but doesn't feel complicit whatsoever. He has his sons saddle his donkey once again and goes and finds the man of God lying on the road. He gets off his donkey and goes over to his body and the lion and the donkey are still there. The Bible records that the old prophet stood beside them and all three gazed at the body of the man of God. This is such an unusual story obviously controlled by the hand of God.

Again, it appears the old prophet feels bad for the man of God. The Bible records that he picks up his body and places it on the donkey which I believe to be the donkey that stood next to the lion. He brought him back and buried him in his own grave and they all mourned him there. Surely this old prophet had deep respect for the man of God and sympathy for what happened to him because he calls him "brother" in verse 30. In verses 31 and 32 he says to his sons:

1 Kings 13:31-32 (**Slide 21**)

31 After he had buried him, he spoke to his sons, saying, "When I die, bury me in the grave in which the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. **32** For the thing shall surely come to pass which he cried by the word of the Lord against the altar in Bethel and against all the

houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria.”

It certainly would come about just as he predicted because even after hearing of these events, Jeroboam didn't change.

1 Kings 13:33-34 (**Slide 22**)

33 After this event Jeroboam did not return from his evil way, but again he made priests of the high places from among all the people; any who would, he ordained, to be priests of the high places. **34** This event became sin to the house of Jeroboam, even to blot *it* out and destroy *it* from off the face of the earth.

Why did God hold the man of God accountable for believing a very convincing lie? I personally believe that this was done this way as a lesson for all of humanity and especially for Christian people. Because God is Sovereign and He rules over every living creature in Heaven and earth. When he speaks it becomes law and cannot be changed by anyone or any supernatural force.

During the time of transfiguration with the law and the prophets represented by Moses and Elijah, while Peter

was speaking about building places of worship, God said in verse 5:

Matthew 17:5 (Slide 23)

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

This is the very principle in which God illustrates that He is the Law and the Prophets. His word is Holy and it is Law.

Deuteronomy 13:1-4 (**Slide 24**)

1 "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' (**Slide 25**) 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.

This concept applies to anything God says when it comes to worship, the church, inspiration of doctrine, anything

according to any truth in his Holy Word. Once God has spoken, anything claiming to be from God must conform to what is revealed in His Holy Bible. Otherwise it is to be rejected.

1 John 4:1 (**Slide 26**)

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

It seems that the man of God didn't test the words of the old prophet. If he had, he would have reasoned that since God had once spoken to him, that if God had changed His mind, He would have spoken to him once again. I believe what happened just outside of the city of Bethel was meant as a warning for us today.

Paul says in Galatians 1:6-9: (**Slide 27**)

6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; **7** which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

(**Slide 28**) **8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! **9** As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you

a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

There are many bodies of worship that claim to be Christian, but further examination reveals that much of their doctrine and worship is man made. It is up to the truth seeker to test these or any new claim against what has been revealed in the Holy Bible. It is God's inspired Word and it is Final! The man of God paid with his life by not doing so!

Invitation