

1st Kings Chapter 13

V: 1 Again the connection between the “man of God” and the “Word of God”.

- This un-named prophet was compelled by the Word of the Lord to travel from Judah to Bethel to address Jeroboam and his pagan altar.

Psalm 119:133 “Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.”

- Has the Word of God compelled you to do anything lately? This man was compelled to leave his home and go to un-friendly territory and give an unpopular message to someone who didn’t want to hear it – but he left the comfort of his home and did – initially what the Lord commanded.
- As the man of God arrives at Bethel, Jeroboam is there offering incense upon the altar, worshipping.
- Apparently along with the lowest of the people he’s made himself a priest as well.

V: 2 The man of God prophesies that this altar will be destroyed and that a descendant of David, king Josiah shall be born who will destroy these things and that the carcasses of these pagan priests will be burnt upon this altar – thus desecrating it.

- King Josiah would later be born 325 years later and became king of Judah – considered the best king of Judah because of his love for the word of God, for leading the nation in repentance, and dealing with the pagan altars and places of worship.

2 Kings 23:12-16 [Turn to / read](#)

- Josiah = “Yahweh heals”

V: 3 This un-named prophet then gives Jeroboam a sign that these things will come to pass: The altar will be broken or split and the ashes will pour out.

V: 4-5 As Jeroboam hears this – he’s standing right there, he points the man out and orders that he be arrested.

- As he points towards the man, putting forth his hand – his hand withers and is dried up on the spot.
- At the same time the altar breaks and spills out the ashes contained therein – just as the prophet had declared.

Psalm 105:15 “Saying, touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.”

V: 6 The king quickly responds, humbling himself asking the man of God to pray to God on his behalf that his hand would be restored.

- “entreat now the face of the Lord thy God...” not Jeroboam’s God.
- This young prophet doesn’t seem to take it personally or bear a grudge – I might have enjoyed looking at his withered hand for just a few moments longer...

Jesus said:

Matthew 5:44 “But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

- The man of God does entreat God, and Jeroboam’s hand is restored.

James 5:16 “... the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

V: 7-10 Jeroboam has gone from wanting to arrest and probably kill the prophet to inviting home for dinner. He’s moved from force to subtlety.

- The prophet refuses the offer explaining that God has instructed him not to eat bread or drink water, nor return the same way he came, and leaves for home making it a point to go a different way than that by which he came.

The king of Sodom offered Abraham a reward for rescuing his people and all their stuff, Abraham replied:

Genesis 14:23 “That I will not take from a thread even to a shoe latchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich.”

- Somehow a reward, even a meal with all those involved would have brought compromise – so he was commanded not to.
- If the prophet had gone and received from Jeroboam, had a meal with him it would in some way have affirmed Jeroboam and his practices – and God didn’t want that.
- Had the prophet eaten a meal with the king, that one simple act would have wiped out the effectiveness of his witness and ministry. Sharing a meal is a sign of friendship, it is an endorsement.

Proverbs 25:26 “A righteous man falling down / giving way before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.”

1 Corinthians 5:11 “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”

- To do so is to affirm their behavior and in the process doing them a disservice.
- Our fellowship and continued relationship with those listed would lend a sense of legitimacy or approval to their behavior, and at the same time give them a false sense of security which does not motivate them to repent of their sin, which would ultimately lead them to hell.

V: 11-19 If there was an old prophet dwelling in Bethel already why did God have to bring another prophet from Judah to speak to Jeroboam?

- I've learned that if I'm not obedient to the Word of God and the leading of God that He will raise up another person to do the job.

Paul quoting the prophet Jeremiah:

1 Corinthians 9:16 "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

- The old prophet found the younger prophet "sitting" under a tree. Had the younger prophet kept moving he would have avoided the invitation of the older prophet that leads to his death.
- Like king David, he got into trouble taking it easy when he should have been moving and doing what God called him to do.
- The older prophet invites the younger prophet home to eat and drink but is initially refused, explaining his instructions from the Lord.
- The older prophet convinces the younger by telling him that he is a prophet also and that he's received a fresh or new revelation from God and that it's ok to come home with him – but he was lying!
- Any angel that contradicts the Word of God isn't an angel from God.

2 Corinthians 11:14 "And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

- There are many so called prophets doing and saying the same thing today; discard the "old" revelation of God, set aside what you know to be true and embrace this new "truth". (Bethel / Bill Johnson – New Apostolic Reformation = heresy.)

Galatians 6:8 "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

1 John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

- When God speaks to us about something the first thing we should do is examine it in light of God's Word – because God isn't going to contradict himself.
- Sometimes the Lord will speak to me about something and then at a later time someone will come and say "the Lord has given me a word for you" – which I'll receive then again consider it in light of scripture. Sometimes it's a confirmation, sometimes it's an answer to prayer, sometimes it's totally irrelevant or bogus.

1 Corinthians 14:29 "Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge."

- As far as this young, disobedient prophet is concerned, God allowed this test and sometimes that is where we are – it's just a test of the emergency Christian system!

Deuteronomy 8:2 "And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep His commandments, or no."

- Prophets speak for God, but they also speak to God. How could this man have avoided this fate? He could have kept moving, and he could have asked God for wisdom – and God would have answered.

Hymn: [What A Friend We Have In Jesus](#) – "Oh what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear – all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!"

- If we stick with the Word of God then we're on safe territory.
- This man of God referred to as the un-named prophet now earns the title the "disobedient prophet" because he turns away from the Word of God to the word of an angel via the older prophet.

V: 20-22 The Lord speaks: to the older prophet, not the younger one.

Romans 8:8 "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

- Disobedience to God's Word impairs, and has a negative impact on our communion and communication with God.

Psalms 66:18 "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

- He is told that because you have been disobedient and did that which you were told not to do, you are going to die.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."

- This may seem harsh; but God deals more strictly with those He loves, with those who are His oracles, meaning teachers and those in spiritual authority are held to a higher standard

James 3:1 “My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

V: 23-26 After he'd eaten bread, and drunk – in rebellion to God's commandment he goes to leave – being loaned a donkey.

- A lion met and killed him along the way – and to prove that it was from God the lion didn't bother the donkey or eat the body of the disobedient prophet – both of which a lion under normal circumstances would have done.

There is however another lion looking to devour us:

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

V: 27-32 The old prophet goes out and finds the body of the disobedient prophet, with the lion and the donkey still just standing there.

- The old prophet doesn't fear the lion – now he's walking by faith, trusting in the Lord to protect him.
- He brings the body of the disobedient prophet home and places him in his own grave where he will eventually join him.
- The older prophet acknowledges the work and ministry of the disobedient prophet, and the words that he spoke from the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

- He was obedient in sharing the Word of God, but he was disobedient in doing the Word of God = dead.

V: 33-34 Seeing all of this did not influence Jeroboam who continued in his idolatry and flagrant sin – which would lead to his house being left desolate.

- God is so good, He doesn't just let us go into folly without first warning us – Jeroboam has been warned in dramatic fashion, yet he chooses to ignore that warning.

1 Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted

above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

- This disobedient prophet was a messenger to Jeroboam in both life and death.
 1. In life he warned Jeroboam trying to steer him away from apostasy and idolatry.
 2. In death he served as an example of what happens to those who disobey the Word of God.
- Next week we'll see the end of Jeroboam and Rehoboam as both of these kings pass from the scene.
- There is a common thread in both of their lives as they pass from life to death and that is that they both departed from the Word of God into idolatry, departing from God Himself.

Matthew 22:37 “... thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”