

1 Kings 13

Fear God in Humility

Judgment on Jeroboam's Religion ... *"which he had devised in his own heart"*

I. Message of the Man of God: It's as good as over

1 And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

- **Behold**; lit. "check this out"
 1. God sends "**man of God**" from Judah to Bethel
 2. Finds Jeroboam playing religion BGG
 3. Burning incense to gold calf
- Army of Judah stopped by God in Ch. 12 but one man is sent to by God to condemn

2 Then [man of God] **cried out against the altar** by the word of the Lord, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, a child, **Josiah** by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the **priests of the high places** who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.'" 3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the Lord has spoken: **Surely the altar shall split apart**, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."

- **Cried out**: God's heart toward apostasy/falseness/rebellion
- **Prophecy**: Near prophecy assuring distant prophecy. Prophet would die if not
 1. **Near** Soon this altar will split before your eyes Jeroboam
 2. **Far** Later a King named Josiah will destroy your false-religion

Mark 16:20 ...they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the **accompanying signs**.

- King Josiah would born 350 years later and destroy false religious practices [King 8]
- **King Josiah would be from Judah**; Jeroboam's worst fears realized

The altar you are burning incense will split...in a minute
After you rebuild it... your Pagan priests will die on it the hands of Judah

4 So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "**Arrest him!**" Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself.

- Arrest him? Thought he had power.

John 19:10 [Pilate claiming power] "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" 11 Jesus answered, "**You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.**"

- Hand w/pointed finger shrivels up/stiffens still pointing at prophet

5 The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the Lord.

- Fulfilled near prophesy validates coming far prophesy of Pagan priest sacrificed

6 Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please entreat the favor of the **Lord your God**, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me."

- **Lord your God:**

1. God you worship in Judah at the place God chose
2. God you worship and I don't **is the only one who can heal**

6b... So the man of God entreated the Lord, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before.

- Mercy/Grace

7 Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and **I will give you a reward.**" 8 But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place. 9 For so it was commanded me by the word of the Lord, saying, 'You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, **nor return by the same way you came.**'"

- **Let's be friends**

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? **Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

- **Strong Temptation?** Reward. Honored by people
- **Man of God's answer?**

1. I will not stay/be seen with you for half kingdom
2. I will not validate you or what you are doing....

What do we validate/condone by our relation to/cooperation with?

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from **all appearance of evil.**

- Bars/Clubs
- Worse yet...Those who call themselves believers but are ungodly

1 Corinthians 5:11 [Do...] not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—**not even to eat with such a person.**

Psalms 26:4 I have not sat with idolatrous mortals, Nor will I go in with hypocrites. 5 I have hated the assembly of evildoers, **And will not sit with the wicked.**

Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore **do not be partakers with them.**

- **Deceive by Empty words:** It's okay to compromise; rewarded
- **Man of God stands strong...**for now

10 So [the man of God] went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel.

- Headed south to Judah a different way than he came

SUMMARY Message of the Man of God: It's as good as over

II. Disobedience/Death of the Man of God

11 Now an **old prophet dwelt in Bethel**, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; they also told their father the words which he had spoken to the king. 12 And their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" For his sons had seen which way the man of God went who came from Judah.

- **Old Prophet living in Bethel**
 1. **Saw all that had gone on;** setting up false religious system/cows, etc.
 2. **Sons tell story;** rebuked Jeroboam, Shriveled/restored hand/Altar busted

Which direction did he go?

13 Then he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him; and he rode on it, 14 and went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak. Then he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" And he said, "I am." 15 **"Come home with me and eat bread."** 16 And [the man of God] said [to the old prophet...], **"I cannot return with you nor go in with you;** neither can I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place. 17 For I have been **told by the word of the Lord**, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.'" 18 [The old bad prophet] said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, 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.**'" (He was lying to him.)

- **Old Prophet contradicts the Word of God:**

An angel told me to tell you it's okay...he was lying

"God never contradicts Himself in His dealings with His servants. Let us be true to His commands, refusing to be deflected from the path of obedience, even by an angel from

heaven.” [Morgan]

- **Tempted man of God to disobey God:** Contradicted the Word of God

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

Any dream, book, word, teaching, vision etc. that contradicts the Word of God is of Satan.

- **God’s prophet was lying:** Still had free-will to sin.

It was not God’s will that the Old Prophet lied and tempted the man of God

James 1:13 Let **no one say** when he is tempted, “**I am tempted by God**”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, **nor does He Himself tempt anyone**. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

- We don’t blame God for our sin...

**It was not God’s will that the Old Prophet lied and tempted the man of God but...
He is, and we are, responsible for allowing ourselves to be deceived**

1 John 4:1 Beloved, **do not believe every spirit**, but test the spirits, whether they are of God....

- Test what is being presented/offered by the Word of God

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone **cheat you** through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

- We are to love/cling to the Truth of God’s Word

2 Thessalonians 2:9 [Read] The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the **love of the truth**, that they might be saved. ¹¹And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹²that they all may be condemned who did not **believe the truth** but had pleasure in unrighteousness...

- Receive a “love of the truth” or be lost
- Believe the Truth or be condemned

V12 The reason people don’t believe the truth is that they take pleasure in unrighteousness

- **Christianity and Truth cannot be separated:**

If you truly want truth you will come to Jesus...Jesus is Truth

John 3:19 ...this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men **loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly

seen, that they have been done in God.” [If you truly want truth you will come to Jesus]

- An angel said to do what God said not to do...

19 So [the man of God] went back with [the old prophet], and **ate bread in his house, and drank water.**

Any dream, book, word, teaching, vision etc. that contradicts the Word of God is of Satan.

- **Man of God:** Pay with his life for giving in temptation [collateral damage to follow]

20 Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of the Lord came to the prophet who had brought him back; 21 and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Because you have disobeyed the word of the Lord, and have not kept the commandment which the Lord your God commanded you, 22 but you came back, ate bread, and drank water in the place of which the Lord said to you, “Eat no bread and drink no water,” your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.’”

- True Word of the Lord comes through the lying Prophet?
- No matter what temptation: **Man/woman of God is still responsible**

Disobedience of the Man of God will lead to his death

This is an example of an important principle of the way God works. We think that strict judgment should begin among the most ungodly, but often God begins strict judgment among His own people. Usually this is because God knows that the world will not be reached when His people live in compromise and disobedience. [Giving of Law 3000, Ananias/Sapphira in NT]

1 Peter 4:17 For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins with us first*, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Disobedience of the Man of God will lead to his death

- **There is a sin unto death:** For this one God will take you out...

1 John 5:16b... There is sin leading to death.

God may take us out before we affect/infect anyone else

23 So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, the prophet whom he had brought back.

- **Finished Eating?:** Very hungry? Wants a last meal? Pride?

24 When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse.

- Yielded to temptation and reaped consequences...

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

Those that yield to [Satan] as a tempter will be terrified by him as a tormentor; whom he now fawns upon he will afterwards fly upon, and whom he now draws into sin he will do what he can to drive to despair. [Matthew Henry]

- **Satan hates us:** Eats dust

25 And there, men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road, and the lion standing by the **corpse**. Then they went and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

- **Lion sent by the Lord:**

1. Lion meets man of God
2. Kills him and throws *corpse* in the street
3. Donkey/Lion standing next to one another staring at dead man of God
4. Lion does not eat man or Donkey? [Supernatural/from God]

- **Men see it and tell in Bethel**

26 Now when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard it, he said, "It is the man of God who was disobedient to the word of the Lord. Therefore the Lord has delivered him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke to him."

- **Old Prophet:**

"He did not obey God and God killed him as He said He would! **Should have listened!**"

27 And [the old Prophet] spoke to his sons, saying, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled it. 28 Then he went and found his **corpse** thrown on the road, and the donkey and the lion standing by the corpse. The lion had not eaten the **corpse** nor torn the donkey. 29 And the prophet took up the **corpse** of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back. So the old prophet came to the city to mourn, and to bury him.

- Dead man of God brought back to Bethel for all to see

30 Then he laid the **corpse** in his own tomb; and they mourned over him, saying, "**Alas, my brother!**" 31 So it was, after he had buried him, that he spoke to his sons, saying, "When I am dead, then bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. 32 For the saying which he cried out by the word of the Lord against the altar in Bethel, and against all the shrines on the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass."

- **NOTE:** Term "*Corpse*" used. Body just a tent. Abe's bosom awaiting Jesus.

- **Bury me next to my brother?** Not sure what the man of God would think

Though he was a lying prophet, yet he desired to die the death of a true prophet. [Matthew Henry]

- What the “man of God” prophesied will still come to pass

Jeroboam is going down!

Problem? Disobedience of the man of God led to evil to be justified in the ungodly

Our disobedience solidifies the position/practice of the wicked...

33 After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way

- **After “this event”; i.e. the man of God is brought back dead/judged**
 1. **Jeroboam “did not turn”** i.e. Repent
 2. Made priests out of anyone who had a heartbeat

What happens after we “backslide” into adultery, sexual sin, gossip, drugs/alcohol? After we are put on shelf or God takes us out? Man/woman of God yielding to temptation is a *big deal* with horrific and enduring implications/consequences for those who see it

- **People who know affected by our sin...**
 1. Choose not to repent [though judgment will surely come]
 2. Continue in their sin
 3. Generations are tainted [There was this pastor, elder, Christian that...]

After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way...

...but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places; whoever wished, he consecrated him, and **he became one of the priests of the high places.**

- Making himself [a king] a priest was disobeying Jewish Law

34 And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, so as to exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth.

- Jeroboam and every false religious system will come to an end. Babylon has fallen.

SUMMARY Disobedience/Death of the Man of God

No matter how natural and seductive this enticement was, it was the duty of the man of God to resist it. He had a word from God to guide his actions, and should receive no other word except through dramatic and direct confirmation by God’s Spirit. His failure at this point ended his usefulness as a man of God.