

## I Kings Lesson 13

I Kings Chapter 13

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*Website: [www.KjvBibleStudies.net](http://www.KjvBibleStudies.net)*

*E-mail: [mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com](mailto:mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com)*

Memory verses for this week: ***Psa 56:11*** *In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.*

**Introduction:** Last week we covered the division of the nation of Israel as Solomon's son Rehoboam reigns now over Judah while Jeroboam reigned over the northern kingdom which consisted of 10 tribes.

### I. The Man of God and Jeroboam

***1Ki 13:1*** *And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.*

***1Ki 13:2*** *And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.*

***1Ki 13:3*** *And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.*

Verse 1 tells of the man of God coming out and prophesying against the false order where Jeroboam stood to burn incense. It is interesting that God did give us the name of the prophet, but the man performs the Lord's will as he cries out against evil. One day it would be Josiah who would destroy the altar. The prophet names Josiah over 300 years before his birth. For the fulfillment see 2 Kings 23:15-18. Verse 3 shows the sign that the Lord had spoken.

***Luke 11:28*** *But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.*

***James 1:22*** *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

***Hebrews 2:1*** *Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*

***1Ki 13:4*** *And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried*

*up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.  
1Ki 13:5 The altar also was rent, 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.*

Jeroboam apparently becomes upset with the man of God and puts forth his hand from the altar and tells them to lay hold on the prophet. Jeroboam was stricken when trying to arrest the prophet. His arm withered because he lifted it against God's true servant. There are many spiritually withered arms and lives today because they lifted their hand against God's man.

There is a lesson here to be learned. All human power and skill engaged against God will wither.

*Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.*

*Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*

Verse 5 records the altar being rent and the ashes poured out.

*1Ki 13:6 And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.*

*1Ki 13:7 And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.*

The king realizes his condition and asks for healing from the Lord. While he sought healing for his arm, we do not see any for his heart and soul. Like many, his main concern was for the physical. The man of God besought the Lord on the king's behalf and his hand was restored. Jeroboam then extends an invitation to the prophet to come home with him and refresh him. Was he seeking to apologize? Or perhaps was he seeking to get the prophecy softened? For sure he did not truly repent or change his ways, even though he had the opportunity.

*Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

*1Ki 13:8 And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I*

*will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:  
1Ki 13:9 For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor  
drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.  
1Ki 13:10 So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to  
Bethel.*

The prophet refuses the King's invitation because of God's orders. Fellowship was limited by God. We are forbidden to be yoked with unbelievers. We need to be careful who we make as friends.

*2 Corinthians 6:14-17 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

We are not to have fellowship with the works of darkness.

*Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

We need to be careful not to be blinded by those who might give us gifts to sway our position.

*Pro 15:27 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.*

We are not to invite false teachers into our house.

*2 John 9-11 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*

## **II. A Prophet Seduced by an Old Prophet**

*1Ki 13:11 Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.*

*1Ki 13:12 And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.*

*1Ki 13:13 And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon,*

*1Ki 13:14 And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he*

*said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am.  
1Ki 13:15 Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.  
1Ki 13:16 And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat  
bread nor drink water with thee in this place:  
1Ki 13:17 For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor  
drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.*

There was an old prophet in Bethel who hears about the young prophet and puts forth a temptation and lying message. He asks his sons which way the young prophet went and pursues after him with an evil invitation. The devil uses food and leisure to lure the young man into sin. Although the old prophet lied, the first man had a command from the Word of the Lord which revealed God's will. He was not to eat bread nor drink water there and he had to return home a different way than which he had come. It is dangerous to fail to listen to the Word of God.

*1Ki 13:18 He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto  
me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house,  
that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him.  
1Ki 13:19 So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.*

The old prophet had a lying message. No matter our intentions, we need to always tell the truth.

*Galatians 1:8-9 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. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other  
gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*

The young man becomes a disobedient prophet and trusts the older man. It is amazing how he had resisted a king, but now yields to a prophet. Some people today will follow any lying prophet or almost any preacher that comes along. Some of the television preachers teach some truth, but unless it is all truth we are in trouble. This young man listened to bad advice and it really cost him. God's people need to seek to know the truth through their godly pastor and not through some radio or TV preacher.

*1Ki 13:20 And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came  
unto the prophet that brought him back:  
1Ki 13:21 And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith  
the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not  
kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee,  
1Ki 13:22 But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the  
which the LORD did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase  
shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.  
1Ki 13:23 And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he  
saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back.  
1Ki 13:24 And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his  
carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the  
carcase.*

*1Ki 13:25 And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.*

The date of the man of God came in quick and it was hard. Because he had failed to heed the Lord, his judgment is announced. God speaks to the old prophet of Bethel there in verses 20 and 21. While this man was a true prophet, he was out of the will of God.

Nothing is said of his crying out against the altar at Bethel. The Lord denounces the young prophets sin and pronounces his fate. Because he had disobeyed the Lord, death would come. Verse 24 gives record of the death of the man of God. We had best heed God rather than man. The bible gives us a record of an obedient prophet who spent a night in a lion's den without harm in Daniel Chapter 6.

*Dan 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.*

*Dan 6:19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.*

*Dan 6:20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?*

*Dan 6:21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.*

*Dan 6:22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.*

*1Ki 13:26 And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him.*

*1Ki 13:27 And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him.*

*1Ki 13:28 And he went and found his carcase cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcase: the lion had not eaten the carcase, nor torn the ass.*

*1Ki 13:29 And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him.*

The disobedient prophet could not escape one lion. When we do the will of the Lord and trust him, we are as bold as lion.

*Pro 28:1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are **bold as a lion**.*

Note the miraculous nature of this event. The lion did not eat the prophet or

the ass. The ass did not flee; neither did the lion attack the old prophet of Bethel when he came for the body. If people could simply see the consequences of disobedience many would be saved from disaster.

Verse 29 gives us record of the old prophet retrieving the body and the burial of the man of God. Surely this old prophet felt bad about what had happened, but that did not change the circumstances. When we encourage others to disobey God's commands, we are no friend to that person.

*1Ki 13:30 And he laid his carcase in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother!*  
*1Ki 13:31 And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones:*  
*1Ki 13:32 For the saying 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, shall surely come to pass.*

The young prophet was buried in the old prophet's personal grave. Note the honor paid to him over 300 years later by Josiah.

*2Ki 23:17 Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel.*  
*2Ki 23:18 And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.*

The old prophet gives his testimony and asks that his sons bury him in the same grave when he died. He hated what he had done, but now he shows respect to the young prophet.

*1Ki 13:33 After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.*  
*1Ki 13:34 And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.*

Even after these things happened, Jeroboam did not change his life. The bible records in verse 33 how he installed sinful (Non-Levites) in the priesthood. When we quit worrying about what God says about a matter, we are headed for trouble. The outcome is predicted in Verse 34. We would have his house cut off and destroyed from the face of the earth. Jeroboam learned nothing from the events of 1 Kings 13.

**Kenneth Brooks encourages us to learn:**

“God would teach His servants not to have fellowship with the works of darkness, lest they fall under their contagion and give them encouragement. The devil always has his snares ready to entrap one who bears Christ’s message. God’s commands, like His promises, are yea and amen in Christ. Let us not dare turn aside on the advice of others.”

\* Additional Comments added by E.L. Bynum in Dec. 2013.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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