

1 Kings 13:1-34 **Man of Elohiym from Judah – Against Altar of Jeroboam**

The Message of the Man of God

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. **2** Then he 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."

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. **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.

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."

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

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.'" **10** So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel.

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. **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 Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread."

16 And he said, "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 He 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.)

19 So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water.

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.'"

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.

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. 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.

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." 27 And he 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. 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."

Jeroboam did not repent

33 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.

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.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Message of the Man of God

✧ 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.

2 Then he 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.**" [1 Kings 13:1-3]

✧ A true man of God with a clear and accurate message from Judah.

✧ This prophecy was fulfilled by Josiah king of Judah after Israel had been carried away captive by the Assyrians. [2 Kings 23:15-16]

✧ The sign was fulfilled immediately in the next verses.

✧ 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. 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. [1 Kings 13:4-5]

✧ Jeroboam's hand withered to stop his madness as a personal call to repentance.

✧ God has a way to rebuke the most wicked of men when there is an example to be made.

✧ God saved the man of God from Jeroboam and confirmed the message.

✧ 6 Jeroboam answered and said to the man of God, "Please entreat the favor of Yahweh Eloheykaa (the Lord your God), and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." [1 Kings 13:6a]

✧ Jeroboam knew Whom to call on for mercy even though he had led such a rebellion against the Lord.

✧ This was just like Pharaoh of Egypt when God brought the plagues against Egypt to free the Children of Israel and demonstrate to the world His great power. [Exodus 8:8, 9:28, 10:17]

✧ So the man of God entreated the Lord, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before. [1 Kings 13:6b]

✧ God granted mercy to confirm His word through the man of God.

✧ Jeroboam was not repentant, but God used the occasion as an example to all who witnessed the event, confirming the man of God and gaining glory for Himself.

✧ 7 Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward." [1 Kings 13:7]

✧ Like so many people today, Jeroboam seemed to think he could make up for his sins without repentance just by rewarding a man who proved to be a man of God.

✧ 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.'" 10 So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel. [1 Kings 13:8-10]

✧ When faced by a known enemy of the Lord it is easy to stand on the word of God with discernment of truth because of remembering the original instructions.

✧ The man of God properly obeyed Yahweh by rejecting Jeroboam's invitation.

Death of the Man of God because of a lie told by an Old Prophet

✧ 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. 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 Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread."

16 And he said, "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 He 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.) [[1 Kings 13:11-18](#)]

- ✧ So often men of God are deceived by other men claiming to be prophets who may even have a reputation as a prophet whose words come true. Often for their own reasons, they give false messages to test another's faithfulness to the message he received from God.
- ✧ This is a good example of a known prophet lying to another man of God though his reason for lying is not given.
- ✧ God may have sent him to test the man of God from Judah just like He allowed Satan to test Job and Eve.
- ✧ It is better to obey God than to listen to men whoever they may be.

✧ 19 So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water.

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.'"**

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.

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. 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. [[1 Kings 13:19-25](#)]

- ✧ So often prophets speak out of their own imagination and for their own motives when God has not spoken to them. [[Deuteronomy 18:21](#), [Jeremiah 14:14](#), [23:9-22](#), [Lamentations 2:14](#), [Ezekiel 13:3-7](#), [22:28](#)]
- ✧ The old prophet lied to deceive the man of God when he spoke of an angel's message.
- ✧ In this case, when God did in fact speak to the old prophet, the message was fully in keeping with the commandment God gave the man of God from Judah and was fulfilled to the letter.
- ✧ The fact that the lion did not eat the man or attack the donkey and both the donkey and lion were standing beside the corpse, indicates that the lion and donkey were both fully under

the control of God as an example to the world that it was the judgment of God against a man of God who disobeyed his instructions.

- ✧ When God clearly speaks to us personally, we must fully obey.
- ✧ When a man brings a true word from God, he must be careful not to trust another prophet who gives a message contrary to the one he heard from God.
- ✧ False prophets are a primary sign for the days at the time of the end. [Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 23-24, Mark 13:5-6, Luke 21:7-8, 17:22-24, 2 Corinthians 11:12-15, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, 1 Timothy 4:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:13, 4:3-4, 2 Peter 3:3-4, 17, Jude 17-19]
- ☆ 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." 27 And he 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. [1 Kings 13:26-28]
- ✧ The old prophet knew he had caused the death of the man of God, so he went to bury him.
- ☆ 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. 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.**" [1 Kings 13:29-32]

- ✧ Sorrow and mourning at the burial of the man of God showed honor to the man who had been deceived and punished.
- ✧ The old prophet called him "my brother" to express his feeling of kinship with the man.
- ✧ Guilty conscience prompted the old prophet to give the dead his own tomb, and recognition of the accuracy of the man's message prompted him to request burial beside the man of God, my bones next to his bones.
- ✧ The old prophet confirmed that all the words of the man of God were true and would surely come to pass.

Jeroboam did not repent

- ☆ 33 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.
- 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. [1 Kings 13:33-34]
- ✧ Even with all this evidence, the heart of Jeroboam was unwilling to consider his own end and repent toward God.
- ✧ Wicked people will not respond to the promise of God for their future hope by the Word of God concerning the blessing for faithfulness toward God on the condition of obedience. [1 Kings 11:29-38]
- ✧ Nor are they moved by the prophetic warning against continuing in their chosen sins even when they witness such clear signs and evidence. [1 Kings 13:1-34]
- ✧ Jeroboam stubbornly continued on with all his arrogant rebellion against the Word of God.

- ✧ God said, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." [[1 Samuel 15:23](#)]
- ✧ This is a clear revelation of the wickedness in the heart of mankind.
- ✧ Jesus said, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead." [[Luke 16:31](#)]