

Lessons From an Unnamed Prophet

1 Kings 13

- **1 Kings 13** is a tragic chapter in Bible history
- (**ch. 12**) The kingdom of Israel has divided
- (**12:25-33**) Jeroboam, king of Israel has established a false religion

An Unnamed
Prophet

1 Kings 13

- **1 Kings 13**, a man of God is sent to Bethel and Jeroboam.
- **(13:2)** He curses Jeroboam's altar and prophecies (Josiah)
As a sign, the altar would split apart
- **(13:4)** Jeroboam, orders the prophet seized, but his arm withered

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1 Kings 13

- 1 Kings 13:5-6, Jeroboam pleads with the man of God
- (13:6-7) His arm is restored and he invites the man of God to his house
- (13:8-10) The man of God refuses and returns home

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1 Kings 13

- **1 Kings 13:11**, an old prophet from Bethel hears about what happened to the king
- **(13:12-15)** The old prophet goes to find the man of God and invites him to his home
- **(13:16-17)** The man of God refuses and repeats the command of the LORD

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1 Kings 13

- **1 Kings 13:18**, the old prophet lies and tells him an angel told him to bring the man of God back to eat
- **(13:19-22)** The man of God returns with him and as they are eating, the old prophet tells him he will die because he disobeyed the LORD

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- **1 Kings 13:23-24** – the man of God returns to his home and is killed by a lion on the road. But the lion stood by his corpse
- **(13:25-26)** Men passed by and saw the unusual site and brought word to the old prophet

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1 Kings 13

- **1 Kings 13:27-29** – the old prophet retrieved his body and brought it back to the city to mourn and bury him
- **(13:30-31)** He cried, “Alas, my brother!” and gave instructions for himself to be buried with the man of God

- **(13:32-34)** He noted that the prophecy would come to pass.

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1 Kings 13

Beware of temptations

- Satan keeps trying to tempt you –
1 Peter 5:8,
2 Corinthians 2:11
- He tried 3 times with Jesus
- With the man of God, Satan eventually found something that worked (a weakness)

Beware of temptations

- Today, Satan knows our weaknesses and seeks to exploit them—
James 1:12-16
- IF we resist him, he will eventually flee from us (**1 Peter 5:9, James 4:7**)
- BUT, not forever (**cf. Luke 4:13**, he left Jesus only for a time)
- We must continually be alert and humble — **1 Corinthians 10:12**

God does not contradict Himself

- He gave specific instructions to the man of God. What the old prophet told him was a total contradiction – a lie!
- **1 Corinthians 14:33**, God is not the author of confusion
- Critics like to point out contradictions in the Bible, but most are EASILY answered with context, or reason.

NOTE: If a plausible solution can be offered, it is not a contradiction!

God does not contradict Himself

- Many today act as if God contradicts Himself:
- As long as you love God – **John 14:15**
- The church is not necessary – **Ephesians 5:23-27, Acts 20:28, cf. Ephesians 3:10-11**
- Faith is all I need – **Ephesians 2:8-9, see James 2:24**
- I do not need to be baptized – **Acts 2:38, 22:16, 1 Peter 3:21**

Religious leaders do not always tell the truth

- The old prophet lied! He even said an angel spoke to him.
- Today is no different as many religious leaders contradict each other and God's word! Some may be sincere, but others are devious and dishonest
- **2 Corinthians 4:2**
2 Peter 2:1-3
Matthew 4:5-6

Religious leaders do not always tell the truth

- Today, some religious leaders:
- Twist scripture – **2 Peter 3:16**
cf. Matthew 15:3-9
- Some claim that God has given them special revelation – **John 16:13,**
2 Peter 1:3
- NOTE: This is especially true among the “health and wealth” television evangelists, many of whom are clearly covetous.
Note **2 Corinthians 2:17**

Religious leaders do not always tell the truth

- What is the solution?
- **1 John 4:1** – test the spirits...
- The ONLY way to verify if one is teaching the truth is to go to the truth
2 Timothy 2:15
- Being grounded keeps us from being “tossed to and fro...”
Ephesians 3:11-15
Godly leaders will expose error –
Titus 1:10-13

Sincerity does not excuse disobedience

- There is no indication the man of God was not sincere.
- But he still died.
- Sincerity is no guarantee that you are right – scammers victimize the innocent, etc. **Proverbs 14:12**

Sincerity does not excuse disobedience

- Religiously, many believe sincerity is all they need! Or they believe they are doing what is right
- Misled by false teachers.
- Upbringing might lead one to reject truth – cf. Paul **Acts 23:1**, **1 Timothy 1:12-13**
- Some assume that they will be an exception – e.g., Uzzah **2 Samuel 6:3-7**

Sincerity does not excuse disobedience

- Because we can be sincerely wrong, we must continually keep studying – **2 Timothy 2:15**
- Ignorance is NOT bliss, keep studying! – **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

Partial obedience is still disobedience

- The man of God did most of what God told him to do.
- King Saul did most of what he was told in destroying the Amalekites – **1 Samuel 15:22-23**
- **James 2:10**
- Today, many fail to complete God's plan of salvation – **Acts 22:16, etc.**
- **Matthew 7:21-23**

The latter end is what matters


- The man of God started well, but his judgment was based upon how he ended.
- Understand, God IS merciful! He can forgive your past, if you repent –
Acts 8:22, 1 John 1:9, etc.
- BUT that does not mean you can rely on your past to balance out your present!

The latter end is what matters

- **Ezekiel 18:19-24** explains this
- Solomon's later sins caused him to fall out of God's favor
- **2 Peter 2:20-22**
- **Galatians & Hebrews** both address this!
- **Galatians 6:9**, we reap if we do not lose heart, **cf. Luke 9:62**

You cannot change the past

- **1 Kings 13:30**, the old prophet cried, “Alas, my brother”. Did that old prophet have any regrets?
- We have recently heard this – we cannot change the results of past decisions. David could not – **2 Samuel 12:16-23**
- BUT we can learn from it and make better choices as we move forward!



Do any of
these lessons
apply to you?

**What will
you do about
it?**

Let us pray!

