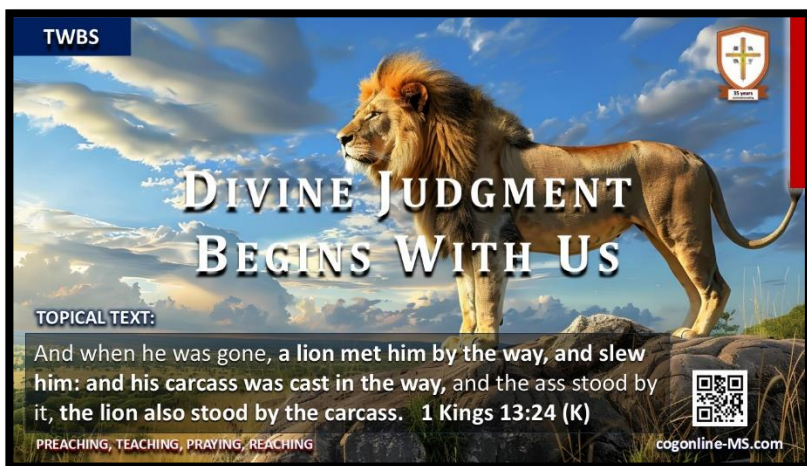




STUDY TEXT:

1 Kings 13:21-26; Deuteronomy 3:25-27; 1 Peter 4:17 (K)

1 Kings 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.

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.

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

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.

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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.

Deuteronomy 3:26 But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.

²⁷ Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

APPLICATION POINT:

The present account here in holy scripture reminds us and reinforces *the irrevocable and unapologetic bible truth* that the administration of divine justice is both timelessly universal and completely impartial. Foremost, in the present account we observe a clear example of the solemn warning of **James 3;1**, citing: **“My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”**

DIVINE JUDGMENT BEGINS WITH US

FOCUS TEXT: And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcass was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcass.

1 Kings 13:24 (K)

Observe closely, upon hearing the soul-convicting divine declaration being loudly proclaimed by the false prophet, as he finished the meal of entrapment that was offered to him by this enemy of righteousness, there was no word of rebuttal or countering plea made by the true prophet.

The inspired scriptural commentary just remarked in **verse 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.”**

Then too, actually there was nothing more to say. The unsanctioned transaction had occurred. And there was no refuting the fact that the young prophet had disobeyed the direct charge that was given to him by the Lord.

“But, but, but!” will not doubt be a nagging prompt that we will be compelled to ponder; especially given the clear nature of the diabolical and deceptive manner by which the young prophet was seduced into to yielding to the request of the old prophet.

However, we are never told that the devil will ever cease to act “like the devil.” Hence, we if we fail to adhere to the directive of divine decree, we too will find ourselves becoming victimized by the deceptive, soul debilitating attacks of our spiritual adversaries.

Again, Ephesians 6:11 charges and forewarns us: “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

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Faltering Unbelief

Clearly the contrary actions of the young prophet plainly illustrate to us the perpetual threat of “faltering unbelief” that can occur at any time in the life of the true Christ follower in instances of unguarded moments or when our spirit-life practices fall below the high bar of the standards of biblical holiness provided for us in the Word of God.

Now, if we believe that this situation can never befall us, **1 Corinthians 10:12** compels us to earnestly consider: **“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”**

Inevitable Spirit-Life Realities

Again, in the aftermath of the young prophet’s transgression there was nothing more to be stated. He could not simply press an “undo” button and reverse his actions; and there wasn’t any level of petition of mercy that could be offered to change the inevitable outcome that had been irrevocably declared.

His situation was comparable to that of Moses, where he explained in **Deuteronomy 3:26-27** regarding the matters related to committing the “sin unto death,” ... **But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.**

“Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan.”

And more directly we observe in regards to young prophet the true fulfillment of God’s Holy Word, in **verse 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.”**

Thus, here too, we reminded of the divine injunction of **Galatians 6:7, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”**

Insightful Practical Gleanings

Observe. The lion-predator was stent to slay the prophet; however, it did not harm the donkey that was also standing over the deceased prophet’s body.

Thus, we are shown the manifestation of the complete orchestration of divine providence and power in this strange matter.

However, the divine message that was plainly telegraphed by this situation publicly affirmed the truthfulness of the divine decree.

Note too that the prophet’s body never made it back home to the family burial site of his father’s sepulcher. Hence, we are shown once more that God’s Word always comes to pass.

Now naturally, here too, we are prone to ask the challenge Heaven to respond to the deeper question, “Why such a severe response?”

And that prompt reply will reveal the sobering enlightenment key points:

- He was given a great privilege as an ambassador of the Almighty.
- He had been made a visible public figure of great influence.
- He role represented the holiness of God.
- The prompt and pronounced action toward him, full taught that God’s Word is true and impartial, and should never be taken lightly or despised.
- And finally, the “terror of the Lord” is very real and something to be earnestly feared.