



STUDY TEXT:

1 Kings 13:11-21 (K)

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.

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.

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

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.

¹⁵ Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.

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:

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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.

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.

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

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:

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,

APPLICATION POINT:

Every generation of “the redeemed” are forewarned to be discerning and alert to the perpetual dangers that lurk in the sphere of our spiritual stewardship. Because we live and work in a spiritual climate that is innately hostile toward the children of righteousness; moreover, unseen eyes are every stalking our every move, especially when we begin to prevail in our contests against the agents and elements of spiritual darkness.

DINING WITH A DECEIVER

FOCUS TEXT: 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. 1 Kings 13:18 (K)

The faithful man of God had boldly confronted the apostate King (Jeroboam) and declared the divine message fully and clearly to him that his wicked scheme to divert hearts away from the truth (the Law) would be dramatically and forcefully opposed by Heaven.

And, if he persisted in following the path of defiant rebellion, both he and his offspring would be doomed and destroyed.

In **verse 13:2b** the divine message forewarned: “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.”

And too, **verse 13:34** provides us with a clear preview of his future path, thus: “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.”

As such the Word of God re-affirmed to us the surety of the decrees of divine sovereignty and the irresistible impact of the power of divine might to accomplish the objectives of His divine will.

In **Isaiah 55:11** the Lord strongly emphasized to us: “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

Moreover, it is extremely important for us (Christ followers) to know that this holy affirmation is timelessly and completely universal.

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This key point became the main focus of this subsequent account that unfolded in the aftermath of the unnamed prophet's encounter with King Jeroboam.

AN INTENTIONAL OBJECTIVE

Having rejected King Jeroboam's offer to fellowship with him, after the miraculous restoration of his paralyzed hand (that was the result the punitive stroke of divine intervention against his futile attempt to hinder the sanctioned of the young prophet from Judah), **verse 13:10** reported to us: **"So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel."**

In other words, the young prophet had remained staunchly faithful to obey the divine charge given to him that fully stipulated that course of his actions while he remained in the territory of the Northern Kingdom.

Again, the young prophet was under strict orders from the Lord, as he earnestly conveyed to King Jeroboam in **verse 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."**

And obviously, the purpose of the holy injunction was intended to reinforce the severe gravity of the wickedness of Jeroboam's transgression, and also to stress the key point that Holy God has no association with the evil works of darkness; and that is also the rule that applies to His servants.

In relation to N.T. Christ followers, in **1 Corinthians 10:20-21** this same theme is brought into focus and addressed as the inspired Apostle explained: **"But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils."**

"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."

As such in this instance showcased in the primary text the Word of the Lord had strictly forbade the prophet of Judah from engaging in any sort of socializing with anyone in Isarel, and during this first challenge of obedience to the holy directive, he had successfully passed.

However, what he failed to recognize and stay watchful against was the fact that our spiritual adversaries are rarely dissuaded by initial failures to achieve their objectives to cause us to stumble.

As plainly highlighted in this practical life scene from this earlier O.T. period, the aggressive effort to the enemies of righteousness was not deterred in the slightest.

Moreover, we observe at this juncture another important spiritual life application point that duly reminds us about the importance of perpetually sustaining a heart posture of awareness (watchfulness) and vigilance.

And in **verse 32** we are directly informed: **“The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.”**

And in this “latter day” era of this Grace Dispensation, in **1 Peter 5:8** we are solemnly warned: **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”**

Consequently, through the Word of the Lord, the Spirit of God steadily provides us plenty of warnings that fully to alert us to beware or stay on guard against the spiritually debilitating effort of our spiritual foes.

However, far too often, we are not always attentive to His voice.

BUT AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL

The holy record of **verse 11** clearly indicates to us that the evil efforts of the old prophet were distinctly premeditated. Upon hearing the dramatic report given to him by his sons who had attended the inaugural event of commencement of Jeroboam’s wicked, religious endeavor, **verse 12b-13** explained that he

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inquired, then acted: **“What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.**

“And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon.”

Consequently, the old prophet's evil intentions reflect the essence of dark purpose of the adversaries of righteousness highlighted in Psalms that informs every “redeemed generation in **verse 37:12**, that alerts us **“The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.”**

Now, perhaps we are prompted to honest question, “Was he a prophet of God? After all was he not a prophet?”

And, in response we can rightly conclude that he possessed the title, but greater question should be “was he a true prophet of God?”

Innately, the sure answer to that question is shown to us by the nature of his actions toward the true man of God.

This spiritual truth principle is also readily applicable in our present generation, because in **1 John 4:1** the Word of God charges us to adopt a posture of discerning vigilance toward all who claim to claim to be a spiritual messenger of God.

The direct instruction declared: **“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”**

And Apostle Paul explicitly explained to the Corinthian assembly (and us), in **2 Corinthians 11:13-14**: **“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.**

“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light”

In the contemporary era of these “last days” Scripture tells us distinctly that many will be swayed and seduced by false religious leaders whose approach will resemble that of the old prophet, who

gained the confidence and attention of the younger prophet with kindred false credentials.

Recall, in **verse 18** he stressed: **“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.”**

In other words, he deceitfully cloaked his true intention by using his religious title, and also a crafted supernatural encounter that was supposed to validate his message.

Now the obvious question that promptly arise to our minds is, “Why did the young prophet listen to and believe him?” And answer is quite simple, he failed to believe continue to believe the Word of God that was directly given to him.

Notice that first, having left the vicinity of his encounter with King Jeroboam, he failed to hastily leave the region of spiritual danger. Because as long as he remained in that area, the divine injunction that was given to him was fully applicable.

Sadly, he failed to take this into consideration when he did as Scripture reported in **verse 19**: **“So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.”**

Also, observe that he made no inquiry (prayed) to the Lord regarding the legitimacy of the false message that was uttered by the old prophet. When there was a clear contradiction, the wise action would have been to seek clarification from the true source – after all, he was God’s prophet.

In summary, we can rightly conclude that he “failed to remain girded in the armor of God,” hence he became a causality of the ever-present spiritual conflict that exists between those in light and those in darkness.