**A Kingdom Divided!**

**Subtitle: The Lion, the Donkey, and the Dead Man**

**I Kings 12 and 13 (Lesson #11)**

***“12:1 Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. 2 And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt. 3 And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam, 4 "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you." 5 He said to them, "Go away for three days, then come again to me." So the people went away.***

**Vs 1 -** Rehoboam is the eldest son of Solomon, born one year before Solomon became king, he was the rightful heir of the throne:

*“Now Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city that the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. His mother’s name was Naamah the Ammonite.” (1Ki 14:21 ESV)*

Rehoboam would have been 8 when the temple was complete, 9 (or so) when the massive temple dedication occurred, and 21 or so when the Royal complex was completed.

On the face this verse seems a little odd. Jerusalem was the capital of Israel. It was the location of the temple; it was the place where all men had to go three times a year to celebrate the festival days before Yahweh.

Why Shechem?

1. I think the verses begin to explain what is going on. It seems, according to **vs 1b**, that all Israel, (we should take this to mean the northern tribes) had assembled in Shechem.
2. It was a city of significance,
	1. It was the first city Abraham visited when he entered the Promised Land (Gen 12:6)
	2. Joseph was buried in Shechem (Josh 24:1)
	3. It appears to have significance for the Northern portion of the kingdom, **located just 70 miles north of Jerusalem.**
3. We see a rift appears to have formed between the northern and the southern kingdoms.

**Vs 2 –** When Jeroboam, hears about the death of Solomon, he returns from Egypt.

* Remember Ahijah the prophet had declared that Jeroboam was going to become king of 10 tribes (I Kin 11:26-38).
* Jeroboam fled to Egypt because Solomon, having learned about the prophecy, attempted to kill him.

**Vs 3 –** The “they” seems to be leaders of the northern section of the empire (including Simeon). So Jeroboam was there in Shechem waiting for Rehoboam.

**Vs 4 -** Upon his arrival, the people have a complaint about Solomon’s rule and thus they immediately confronted Rehoboam:

Was this a legitimate complaint? (maybe, maybe not)

Was Jeroboam simply stirring a simmering pot? (maybe, maybe not)

In summation there is a labor dispute about hours and pay under Solomon and the people want this corrected.

**OBSERVATION:**  Their complaint should have gone something like this. Solomon brought in false worship through the many wives that he brought into his harem, he built high places to these false gods, and he even worshipped the gods. That was unacceptable, we will follow you only if you will turn and follow the one true and living God.

They were willing to serve for better working conditions.

**Vs 5 -** Clearly, Rehoboam was not prepared for this. He likely showed up expecting open arms and a coronation celebration. Instead, he found anger, distrust, and demands for new working conditions.

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***6 Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?" 7 And they said to him, "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever." 8 But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him. 9 And he said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, ‘Lighten the yoke that your father put on us’?" 10 And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,’ thus shall you say to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s thighs. 11 And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.’"***

**Vs 6a –** Solomon provided a great deal of wisdom, that Rehoboam would have been wise to follow:

*“Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.” (Pr 16:31 ESV)*

*“Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.” (Pr 11:14 ESV)*

*“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” (Pr 13:20 ESV)*

**Vs 6b -** His question was direct and to the point.

**Vs 7 -** Solomon’s counselors provide what appears to be good biblical advice that is also quite practical.

1. Experience tells us for any form or government to work, there is the reality that the governed must consent to be governed. Dictatorships do not work over the long haul for this very reason.
2. Their response showed the humility necessary to be king.

*“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Pr 16:18 ESV)*

1. Their response reminded Rehoboam that for a leader to serve in God’s kingdom, he must first be a servant to those he leads.

**MESSIAH**: This was both taught and typified by Jesus:

*“25 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."” (Mt 20:25-28 ESV)*

**APPLICATION:** We need to seek Godly, experienced council when we face important decisions in life. Of course, we should follow the Bible in all our decisions.

**Vs 8** – **BUT…** Rehoboam abandoned the council of the elders who had served Solomon and instead relied on the other 30 - 40 year-old friends who had grown up with him.

**Vs 9 –** We see that he asked the same question of his friends, but he includes the advice given by the elders. In theory, this should have made choosing the correct answer even easier.

**Vs 10 –** The friends who had grown up with Rehoboam, had a very different recommendation:

First, I am not trying to be vulgar, but the Hebrew word is the word for **“little”.** The Hebrew word for finger is used 19 times in Old Testament. This is not that word.

Second, we see their recommendation goes down a totally different direction. It is vulgar, abusive, threatening, and harsh.

Third, **Philip Ryken said in his commentary** - *that a scorpion was a type of whip with nail bards it was an Old Testament scourge. It was a whip that “bit”!*

Forth, although this is an argument from silence, we are never told in I Kings 12 or II Chr 10 (the other place where this exact event is recorded) that Rehoboam prayed, that he sought the will and the word of God.

**APPLICATION:** This type of spiritually immature, abusive, and prideful leadership is always utterly disastrous, in the home, at work, in church, or wherever. This advise is actually foolishness then and now.

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***12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, "Come to me again the third day." 13 And the king answered the people harshly, and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, 14 he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions." 15 So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by the LORD that he might fulfill his word, which the LORD spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.***

**Vs 12 –** Three days pass and Jeroboam, along with all the people show back up and Schechem.

**Vs 13-14 –** The king (foolishly) gives the people the rude, crude, obnoxious, and abusive answer recommended by his younger friends.

**Vs 15 –** Is a sad summation and a reminder of God’s sovereignty.

**Sad Summation:** What happens next would have profound and lasting impact on the 10 northern tribes and also the the two southern tribes.

**Sovereignty of God:** God had said through the prophet, this is what would happen, now men, making their own free will choices have brought it to pass.

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***16 And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So Israel went to their tents. 17 But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah. 18 Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam hurried to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. 20 And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only.***

**Vs 16-17 -** The people disbanded, under the cry “to your tents O Israel.” This is Israel succeeding from Judah and Benjamin. This is the northern portion of the kingdom succeeding from the southern portion.

This is a house divided. This is the northern tribes, saying “what portion do we have in David?”

In rejecting the house of David, they are rejecting God’s king and God’s promised Messiah who would reign on the throne of David forever.

**MESSIAH:** If these words that Jeroboam used seem familiar. I would submit they are! *“14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He* (Pilate) *said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" 15 They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."” (Joh 19:14-15 ESV)*

**APPLICATION:** They made a rash decision, failing to understand everything that was at stake. Let’s not follow this same path of folly in any areas of our life!

Thus, in a moment, the kingdom is divided. Rehoboam will rule over the southern kingdom, referred to from here out a “Judah.” Jeroboam will rule over the 10 tribes, collected known from here out as Israel.

**NOTE:** As best as I can tell, this is where we get the term Jew (II Ki 16:6; II Ki 25:25; Ez 4:12), it refers to the descendants of Judah (and by association Benjamin). Then following the fall of the northern kingdom and their deportation came to be used for all Israelites. Prior to that the nation splitting the entire nation was referred to as Israelites (Gen 32:32, 34:7, 35:22). Other peoples called them Hebrews (Gen 14:13, 39:17, 41:12).

**Vs 18 -** So, in spite of what just happened, Rehoboam, ignorantly moves forward to show the peoples of the northern kingdom that he is serious. It seems that Rehoboam, failed to realize the significance of this event. So, he sends out Adoram, to call people to the labor force. **They stoned him!**

At this point Rehoboam got the message and hurried off 40 miles south, back to Jerusalem.

**Vs 19 -** The northern tribes rebelled against the house of David, and as the writer of Kings was writing this account he adds, as they are to this day. Israel then makes Jeroboam king.

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***21 When Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. 22 But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God: 23 "Say to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, 24 ’Thus says the LORD, You shall not go up or fight against your relatives the people of Israel. Every man return to his home, for this thing is from me.’" So they listened to the word of the LORD and went home again, according to the word of the LORD.***

**Vs 21 -** Rehoboam now shifts to military force. He plans a potentially bloody campaign in which he will demand submissions. He plans to us military power to force submission of the ten northern tribes.

Once members of the same family, once all known as sons of Jacob. Now enemies.

**Vs 22 –** We are introduced to another prophet, Shemaiah. Imagine what this looked like!

**Are the troops assembled? Are they ready to march? Regardless, the prophet is faithful, and one man speaks truth into the lives of 180,001 men.**

We should picture a man who not only spoke God’s word boldly, but spoke it with authority. He did not say God has a recommendation… He said: **“Thus says the LORD…”**

**APPLICATION:** God’s word rarely is providing recommendations. It is providing clear commands, clear precepts, clear guidance and clear principles.

**Vs 24b -** **So they listened to the word of the LORD…** Why did Rehoboam listen, the only reason we know for sure is that this thing was according to the Word of the Lord and the king, along with his men submitted.

**APPLICATION:** The Word of God has the power to change lives, to changes kingdoms and to change history. Our obligation is to learn it and to set it free with our mouths.

**APPLICATION:** Even after a string of foolish decisions, it is never too late to get back on track with God. It is never too late to submit to God. And His Word.

**Mercy of God:** Noticed God intervened, this division was from him, because of the people’s sins. But the nations destroying one another was not in His plan and thus He stepped in.

***25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel. 26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. 27 If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah." 28 So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." 29 And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one. 31 He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites. 32 And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. 33 He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised from his own heart. And he instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings.***

**Vs 25 -** So like Solomon fortified cities, we see Jeroboam building Shechem.

**Vs 26-27 –** We can see that Jeroboam is concerned that as the men travel to attend the three required meetings at the temple, that ultimately they will turn back to King Rehoboam, then they will turn and kill me.

This is funny and sad. God is the one who have gave him the northern tribes. God is the one who had promised him:

*“And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.” (1Ki 11:38 ESV)*

Instead of trusting in the God, who brought all this about. He is concocting a totally different and very sinful idea.

**Vs 28a -** This is interesting. We are not sure who he took council with, possibly himself or other reprobates, **but it was not with God or one of His prophets. For this council leads Jeroboam to extreme folly!**

Had Jeroboam sought council from God’s word or one of God’s men he would have never chosen this path.

**Vs 28b** – Following Aaron’s lead, many years prior (Ex 32:1-6). Jeroboam makes two golden calves. He then declares to the people: ***"You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt."***

He is telling the people they no longer need to heed God’s command in reference to their coming together at the temple in Jerusalem three times a year.

Further, he is defiling the true and living God and saying, here these “golden calves” are what actually brought you out of the land of Egypt.

**Vs 29 –** So then he set up a calf idol in the norther end of his kingdom and a calf idol at the southern end of his kingdom.

**Bethel,** this was the place where Jacob has seen the vision of a ladder to heaven **(Gen 28:10-22).**

**Dan,** a city to the north where false worship had been practiced since the time of the judges **(Jud 18:30-31).**

**APPLICATION and MESSIAH:** Peter preaching:*“****10*** *let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead —  by him this man is standing before you well.* ***11*** *This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.* ***12*** *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."” (Ac 4:10-12 ESV)*

Jeroboam, decided that the only we he could be sure that the heart of the people would continue to follow him is if he controlled their worship of Yahweh, in particular their going and comings to and from the temple.

**Vs 30 –** This proved disastrous for the people, for many if not most began to worship these idols.

Making a trip to the calf idol was a whole lot easier than a trip to Jerusalem, and after all the king had declared these were the gods who delivered the nation anyway.

**Vs 31 –** As if he has not done enough!

1. He makes additional temples in the land
2. He makes additional high places, places of false worship to false gods in the land.
3. Furth still he … ***appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites.***

This is sad, shocking, and revolting. Solomon had gotten out of control in his younger years. Jeroboam has accelerated Solomon’s sinful and reckless behavior. **Bad to worse!**

**Vs 31 -** Not only did Jeroboam create idols, temples, high places and false priests.

**Vs 32 –** He appointed a feast day on the 15th day of the eight month. The Hebrews were to celebrate the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles on the 15th day of the seventh month for seven days. Here Jeroboam creates an Israelite festival during a time that God never commanded.

**Complete and total idolatry! If what Solomon did was bad… Jeroboam has gone bad to worse!**

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***13:1 And behold, a man of God came out of Judah by the word of the LORD to Bethel. Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make offerings. 2 And the man cried against the altar by the word of the LORD and said, "O altar, altar, thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name, and he shall sacrifice on you the priests of the high places who make offerings on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.’" 3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign that the LORD has spoken: ‘Behold, the altar shall be torn down, and the ashes that are on it shall be poured out.’" 4 And when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar at Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Seize him." And his hand, which he stretched out against him, dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself. 5 The altar also was torn down, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign that the man of God had given by the word of the LORD. 6 And the king said to the man of God, "Entreat now the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." And the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored to him and became as it was before. 7 And the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me, and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward." 8 And the man of God said to the king, "If you give me half your house, I will not go in with you. And I will not eat bread or drink water in this place, 9 for so was it commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, ‘You shall neither eat bread nor drink water nor return by the way that you came.’" 10 So he went another way and did not return by the way that he came to Bethel.***

This is likely to be one of the strangest stories you have ever read in the Bible, it is definitely not a story you would place in a children’s bible, and it is unlikely that any of you have heard a sermon from I Kings 13.

Before we start unpacking, I want to draw your attention to a certain phrase that is going to be repeated **eleven times** here in chapter 13, namely and you see it here in verse 1: **“The Word of the Lord.” Also,** there are also multiple references to the command of God or what God said.

**Vs 1 –** Here we are told that a man of God, went from Judah to Bethel, he was being directed by the “Word of the Lord.” While Jeroboam was in the very act, of being a priest to this false god, while he was standing by the altar in Bethel, burning incense. This man of God shows up suddenly and unexpectantly.

**Vs 2 –** He pronounces a prophecy against this very altar. To get this in your mind, the year is around **930-925 BC**. This man of God prophecies that a son will be born to the house of David, his name will be **Josiah**, and he will sacrifice on this very altar priest of the high places who make offerings on you, further clarification, “human bones shall be burned on you.

OK, so a prophet of Yahweh shows up and ruins the whole party. He invades the solemn worship service to a false god, that is being led by the king and begins to declare, possibly even boldly proclaim prophecies against the altar that the king is sacrificing on. This required great boldness.

**APPLICATION:** There is great safety in God’s Word. When we are under the umbrella of God’s Word, we are safe in the arms of God, regardless of what men do to us.

**Vs 3 –** The following the prophecy, he declares a sign will occur to validate the prophecy is from God and will come true. So this prophecy comes with a sign to validate its authenticity.

**Vs 4 -** Jeroboam then stretches out his hand, in what appears to be an attempt to grab him and yells: **"Seize him."** As he stretches out his hand, Jeroboam’s hand and possibly even his arm, dry up, and he is not able to retrieve his hand.

It is the **judgement of God**, but at the same time it is the **mercy of God!**

**But for the man of God, the word of God and his obedience to what God told him to do has provided great safety. This is an important lesson for you and I!**

**Vs 5-6 –** Next, the altar through some mechanism that is not described is **“torn down.”** The ashes that were in the alter pour out on the ground, validating that this is God’s man, and his words are true.

The promised sign is immediately fulfilled thus validating **“The Word of the Lord.”**

**Vs 6 -** Jeroboam cries out, to the man of God, to plead with God and show mercy to Jeroboam and restore his hand. Amazingly enough, the man of God prays to Yahweh and God restores the kings hand.

**WOW!** OK, surely now, Jeroboam will follow and obey Yahweh. First the promise of the kingdoms being given to him, and they were. Now this whole episode. OHHHH the mercy of God.

**APPLICATION:** *“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” (Ps 103:8 ESV)* We see that here with Jeroboam and we know it to be true in our lives. OHHHH the mercy and kindness of our God!

**APPLICATION:** *“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.” (1Jo 5:14 ESV)*

In this case Jeroboam’s request is answered, but his heart remains unchanged!

**Vs 7 –** The king goes from wanting to **“seize”** the man of God to wanting him to come home with the King and the King will give him a **“great reward!”**

Maybe he is truly grateful, but it is more likely, he wants this power for himself and his kingdom.

**Vs 8-9 -** The man of God is uninterested in rewards, but instead in following and obeying God.

**APPLICATION:** Like the man of God, the world should not be able to buy us. The man of God was not concerned with a paycheck, he was concerned with obedience, good lesson for us.

**APPLICATION:** Like the man of God, we should seek to obey God. When he reveals something to us we should be quick to follow.

**Vs 10 –** The man of God obeyed what God had told him to do. He left and appears to be headed for home.

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***11 Now an old prophet lived in Bethel. And his sons came and told him all that the man of God had done that day in Bethel. They also told to their father the words that he had spoken to the king. 12 And their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" And his sons showed him the way that the man of God who came from Judah had gone. 13 And he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him and he mounted it. 14 And he went after the man of God and found him sitting under an oak. And 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 may not return with you, or go in with you, neither will I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place, 17 for it was said to me by the word of the LORD, ‘You shall neither eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by the way that you came.’" 18 And he said to him, "I also am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, ‘Bring him back with you into your house that he may eat bread and drink water.’" But he lied to him. 19 So he went back with him and ate bread in his house and drank water.***

**Vs 11-13 –** We learn about this older prophet, his sons, and the desire of this older prophet to catch up with the man of God from Judah.

**Vs 15-17 –** The older prophet invites the man of God home. The man of God explains why he cannot come with him.

**Vs 18 – The older prophet lies, and the man of God acquiesces to his request.**

**APPLICATION:** The man of God initially resisted the temptation, the same way he resisted it when it came from the king. Did you see how he did it. Yes! He quoted the word of God right into the temptation.

**MESSIAH:** This is exactly what our Savior did when he was tempted in the wilderness (Lu 4:4, 8, 12).

**APPLICATION:** You and I have the full council of God, any supposed new word or new revelation that goes against this sure word, must be rejected. I do not care how socially acceptable it may be! Even if one claims it came from an angel of God.

*“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.” (Ga 1:8 ESV)*

**APPLICATION:** This was test that came from a “fellow prophet.” *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1Jo 4:1 ESV)*

***20 And as they sat at the table, the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back. 21 And he cried to the man of God who came from Judah, "Thus says the LORD, ‘Because you have disobeyed the word of the LORD and have not kept the command that the LORD your God commanded you, 22 but have come back and have eaten bread and drunk water in the place of which he said to you, "Eat no bread and drink no water," your body shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.’" 23 ¶ And after he had eaten bread and drunk, he saddled the donkey for the prophet whom he had brought back. 24 And as he went away a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his body was thrown in the road, and the donkey stood beside it; the lion also stood beside the body. 25 And behold, men passed by and saw the body thrown in the road and the lion standing by the body. And they came and told it in the city where the old prophet lived.***

**Vs 20-22** – The lying prophet, now proclaims the truth of Yahweh!

**Vs 24 –** The lion, the donkey, and the Dead Man. I am sure you have a ton of questions.

**Vs 25 –** The story makes it back to the older prophet.

**APPLICATION:** We may be surprised that the truth of God just came from a man who had lied about the word of God. Truth is truth, regardless of where it comes from.

***26 And when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard of it, he said, "It is the man of God who disobeyed the word of the LORD; therefore the LORD has given him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word that the LORD spoke to him." 27 And he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." And they saddled it. 28 And he went and found his body thrown in the road, and the donkey and the lion standing beside the body. The lion had not eaten the body or torn the donkey. 29 And the prophet took up the body of the man of God and laid it on the donkey and brought it back to the city to mourn and to bury him. 30 And he laid the body in his own grave. And they mourned over him, saying, "Alas, my brother!" 31 And after he had buried him, he said to his sons, "When I die, bury me in the grave in which the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. 32 For the saying that he called out by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel and against all the houses of the high places that are in the cities of Samaria shall surely come to pass."***

**Vs 26 -** The older prophet from Bethel, when he hears this story immediately believes, this is the man of God, who God fulfilled his word against.

**Vs 27-30** – The older prophet gets the man of God, brings him back to Bethel, mourns, and buries him.

**Vs 31 -** The older prophet then tell his sons, when I die, bury me next to this man of God. For what he said will surely come to pass!

Let’s take a peek at what happens nearly **300** years later:In II Kings chapter 22, we learn about a king that comes into power following the death of king Amon, this was his son **Josiah**.

Josiah, unlike his dad was a good king. In II Kings 23 beginning in verse 13 we read:

*“****13*** *And the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, to the south of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.* ***14*** *And he broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim and filled their places with the bones of men.* ***15*** *Moreover, the altar at Bethel, the high place erected by Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, that altar with the high place he pulled down and burned, reducing it to dust. He also burned the Asherah.* ***16*** *And as Josiah turned, he saw the tombs there on the mount. And he sent and took the bones out of the tombs and burned them on the altar and defiled it, according to the word of the LORD that the man of God* (we could add from Judah) *proclaimed, who had predicted these things.* ***17*** *Then he said, "What is that monument that I see?" And the men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and predicted these things that you have done against the altar at Bethel."* ***18*** *And he said, "Let him be; let no man move his bones." So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came out of Samaria.” (2Ki 23:13-18 ESV)*

***33 After this thing Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but made priests for the high places again from among all the people. Any who would, he ordained to be priests of the high places. 34 And this thing became sin to the house of Jeroboam, so as to cut it off and to destroy it from the face of the earth.***

Last week, we saw Solomon keep going from bad to worse. In spite of what just happened, that should have resulted in Jeroboam turning and repenting. **We see, he too, goes from bad to worse.**

**Vs 33 –** This is the most shocking verse of all. God has been so patient and merciful with Jeroboam.

**Vs 34 -** Jeroboam’s sins would not only bring destruction upon himself, but his family, and ultimately the northern kingdom.

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