

4. Holy Spirit Guidance

1 Kgs.13

Introduction:

There are many wonderful lessons to be learned in the Hebrew scriptures (**Rom. 15:4**). At the time of **1 Kgs.13**, the kingdom had been divided (**1 Kgs. 12**). There was the Southern Kingdom under Rehoboam and the Northern, under Jeroboam. Jeroboam had introduced false worship and changed the place of worship for the Northern Kingdom (**1 Kgs. 12:26 ff**). Like today, there was a lot of confusion over religion, and whether there was a true path to God.

What lessons can we learn about the Holy Spirit guiding people today and how we obey the Holy Spirit from this event?

I. THE MAN OF GOD

- A. This Man of God is not named.
 - a. He is sometimes referred to as the young prophet in contrast to the “old prophet” in Bethel – **1 Kgs. 13:11**
 - b. This anonymous man of God demonstrates that you do not need to be famous to be of service to God.
- B. The young prophet came out of Judah “by the word of the Lord” – **13:1**
 - a. He cried out against the King and the corruption in the worship of God – **13:1-6**
 - i. Unlike Balaam, he refused to be paid off – **13:8**; cf. **Num. 22**).
 - b. This is a remarkable prophecy that would be precisely fulfilled 340 years later – **2 Kgs. 23:15**
 - i. The altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam, son of Nebat made for Israel to sin were broken down and burned.
 - c. God’s Prophet came from Judah; God’s prophecy was about the king who would come from Judah.
 - i. This was God saying He did not approve of Jeroboam and Israel.
 - ii. The signs are given to confirm the words spoken by the prophet – **1 Kgs. 13:2-5**
 - iii. Jeroboam’s reaction was that of the world – kill the messenger, rather than heed the message.
- C. The prophet had been guided by the Holy Spirit (**9, 16, 17, 21, 22**). “Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest,” was the instruction.
 - a. It was clear and easy to understand!
 - b. He declined the King’s invitation – v.**7-10**.
 - c. To accept the King’s invitation would have meant compromising God’s word.
 - i. Maybe we speak the word of God, but at the same time are happy to not offend the world?
 - ii. We don’t mind risking offending God, whom we cannot see, because we don’t want to offend people we can see.

II. THE MAN OF GOD BELIEVED A LIE!

- A. The old prophet arranged for the young prophet to come to his house and eat bread and drink water – **13:11-15**
 - a. So, there was a man in Bethel after all, who believed in God.
 - b. But why didn’t God call on this man to speak to the king?
 - i. Speculation: Had he already shown a lack of respect for what he knew the Holy Spirit had commanded in his word?

- ii. As a prophet, he had already taught others what the Holy Spirit required
- c. This Bethel prophet wanted to be associated with God's man and invites him home.
 - i. Did his pride cause him to want to be seen with a winner? Where had he been during the encounter with the king?
 - ii. Perhaps it was the man of God's example that gave him courage?
- B. The young prophet faithfully refused (**16, 17**, stress again the instructions God had given him).
 - a. He knew what God had commanded.
- C. The old prophet reasoned with him, **1 Kgs. 13:18**; "I also am a prophet like you, 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.'" **14**
 - a. Notice the end of the verse: "But he lied to him" (vs. **18**).
 - i. Satan in the Garden said "you will not die"! But they did! – **Gen. 3:4**
 - ii. Just like false prophets in Jeremiah's and Ezekiel's day – **Jer. 29:31; Ezek. 13:1-8**
 - iii. Or maybe he convinced himself that it was true that an angel had appeared and spoke the lie – **2 Cor. 11:14-15**.
 - b. Are we to understand that the young prophet was tired, thirsty and hungry, sitting under the oak tree.
 - i. Caught off-guard after the ordeal and excitement, the adrenalin comedown
 - ii. "Satan withdrew until an opportune time"
 - c. And the Old Prophet's lie involved God!
- D. Why did the Young Prophet listen to the Old Prophet from Bethel? – **13:18**
 - a. The prophet was probably older (an "old prophet", **1 Kgs. 13:11**) the man of God respected him.
 - b. The prophet identified with the man of God ("I too am a prophet as you are").
 - c. The prophet claimed a spectacular, supernatural experience ("an angel spoke to me").
 - d. The prophet claimed to speak for the LORD ("by the word of the LORD").
 - e. The prophet didn't seem to be an idolater who should be shunned ("Bring him back with you to your house")
 - f. The prophet from Bethel offered no reward, other than simple food ("he may eat bread and drink water").

III. THE MAN OF GOD DISOBEYED GOD – **13:19**

- A. As a result, this young prophet was killed – **13:23ff**
- B. His Epitaph: "It is the man of God, who disobeyed the command of the Lord" (vs. **26**).
 - a. The example of how God dealt with the young prophet exemplifies that God expects man to do what he is told to do (cp. **Gen. 4: 6, 7**).

Conclusion:

God's word is easy to understand and we can all understand alike (**Eph. 3:3-4; 5:10-11**). If we are not listening to what God says in his word, we too can believe a lie and be condemned (**Gal. 1:6-9**). The Holy Spirit has clearly spoken in His word. Will you obey it?

ILLUSTRATION: Bob Harris, weatherman for NY TV station WPIX-TV and the nationally syndicated independent Network news, had to weather a public storm of his own making in 1979. Though he had studied math, physics and geology at three colleges, he left school without a degree but with a strong desire to be a media weatherman. He phoned WCBS-TV, introducing himself as a Ph.D. in geophysics from Columbia U. The phony degree got him in the door. After a two-month tryout, he was hired as an off-camera forecaster for WCBS. For the next decade his career flourished. He became widely known as “Dr. Bob.” He was also hired by the New York Times as a consulting meteorologist. The same year both the Long Island Railroad and then Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn hired him.

Forty years of age and living his childhood dream, he found himself in public disgrace and national humiliation when an anonymous letter prompted WCBS management to investigate his academic credentials. Both the station and the New York Times fire him. His story got attention across the land. He was on the Today Show, the Tomorrow Show, and in People Weekly, among others. He thought he'd lose his home and never work in the media again. Several days later the Long Island Railroad and Bowie Kuhn announced they would not fire him. Then WNEW-TV gave him a job. He admits it was a dreadful mistake on his part and doubtless played a role in his divorce. “I took a shortcut that turned out to be the long way around, and one day the bill came due. I will be sorry as long as I am alive.”

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