

A Man of God

Tom Fannin—July 14, 2018

Hello everyone! Tonight I want to talk about an account in the Bible of *a man of God* and *the old prophet*.

I want to talk about some of the events that occurred and give some background. We know what happened with Solomon. Because he forsook God and decided to worship idols and listen to his wives and not follow in the way that his father David, who was loyal to God and obedient and kept God's commandments. We know that the ten tribes of Israel were taken away from Rehoboam, the son of Solomon and given to another king: Jeroboam. So, we're going to read about this:

1-Kings 11:26: "And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite of Zereda, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, he too lifted up *his* hand against the king... [talking about Solomon] ...And this *was* the cause that he lifted up *his* hand against the king. Solomon built Millo and repaired the breaks of the city of David his father. And the man Jeroboam **was a mighty man of war...**" (vs 26-28). *Let's remember this because later we'll mention this again!*

"...And Solomon, seeing that the young man was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph. Now, it came to pass at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah from Shiloh found him on the way. And he had clothed himself with a new garment. And the two of them *were* alone in the field. And Ahijah caught hold of the new garment that *was* on him, and tore it *in* twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam, 'Take ten pieces for yourself. For thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you, but he shall have one tribe for My servant David's sake and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel because they have forsaken Me, and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the goddess of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways, to do *what is right* in My eyes, and to keep My statutes and My judgments, as David his father did. But I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of David My servant, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes. But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and will give it to you, ten tribes. And to his son I will give one tribe, so that David My servant may have a light always before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Me to put My name there. And I will take you,

and you shall reign according to all that your soul desires, and shall be king over Israel. And if you will hearken to all that I command you and will walk in My ways, and do *what is* right in My sight to keep My statutes and My commandments, as David My servant did, then **I will be with you and build you a sure house**, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you'" (vs 28-38)

We see here that God gave a promise to Jeroboam, that He would be with Jeroboam and build him a "...sure house..." God is the One Who chose Jeroboam to be king over the ten tribes.

As we look at this, one of the disappointments is that he didn't take this opportunity as God presented to him. And we will read that he began to forsake God and totally go away from Him.

These opportunities don't come around very often. As we read this, it makes me think about us and the opportunity that we have. God has called and chosen us, and we know what He's going to do in us, the work in us, and us eventually becoming spiritual sons and daughters, kings and priests of God. What an opportunity we have; very similar, but much, much greater, to that of Jeroboam. Jeroboam forgot the promises that God gave him. It sounds unbelievable!

After Jeroboam had gone to Egypt, had come back; 1-Kings 12:20: "And it came to pass when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they sent and called him to the congregation, and made him king over all Israel. There was none who followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only."

Verse 26: "And Jeroboam said in his heart, 'Now, the kingdom may well return to the house of David! If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me and return again to Rehoboam king of Judah.' Then the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold and said to them, 'It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Behold your gods, O, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' And he set the one in Bethel, and he put the other in Dan. And this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one, even to Dan. And he made houses of *worship* on the high places and made priests of the lowest of the people, who were not the sons of Levi. And Jeroboam ordered a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast that *is* in Judah. And he offered upon the altar. So, he did

in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places, which he had made. And he offered upon the altar, which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month, which he had devised out of his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel. And he offered upon the altar and burned incense.” (vs 26-33).

What Jeroboam did is introduce other gods to Israel, to worship as their idols. He “...made priests of the lowest of the people, who were not the sons of Levi...”—who were supposed to be the priests and had that duty. And he introduced different days of worship.

We know that down through time this same sort of rejection of God, this apostasy, has occurred. We can even say that in our time we have seen the very same thing happen. These three things that happened:

1. idols
2. changing of days
3. allowing people to be spiritual leaders over God’s people who shouldn’t be

This occurs over and over!

For the northern ten tribes of Israel, because they didn’t follow God, it caused them a lot of problems and eventually led them to be removed from the land that they had been given and be taken into captivity. As we move on with a little background, did everyone in Israel follow after Jeroboam and that apostasy?

Here it talks about some of the same accounts; 2-Chronicles 11:1: “And Rehoboam came to Jerusalem and gathered a hundred and eighty thousand chosen warriors from the house of Judah to fight against Israel, so that he might bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam. But the Word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, ‘Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying, “Thus says the LORD, ‘You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is done by Me.’”’ And they obeyed the words of the LORD and returned from going against Jeroboam. And Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem and built cities for defense in Judah” (vs 1-5).

Verse 11: “And he fortified the strongholds and put commanders in them, and stores of food, and of oil and wine. And *he put* in each separate city shields and spears, and made them very strong, and Judah and Benjamin were his. And the priests and the Levites in all Israel presented themselves to him out of all their borders. And the Levites left their open lands and their possession, and came to Judah

and Jerusalem, for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off so that they could not execute the priests’ office unto the LORD. And he ordained priests for himself for the high places, and for the demons, and for the *golden calves*, which he had made” (vs 11-15).

Speaking again of Jeroboam. It gives us an idea of just how vile it had gotten, and how vile he had gotten.

Verse 16: “And after the *Levites had left*, then those who gave their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel, out of all the tribes of Israel, came to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD God of their fathers. And they made the kingdom of Judah stronger and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong for three years. For three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon” (vs 16-17).

The Levites left their possession, their inheritance, what they had been given in Israel, because they could not longer execute their office. They could no longer carry out their responsibilities ordained and given them to do. It says here that others came, also, to sacrifice.

Christ spoke to the apostles and gave a message to them; Matthew 19:27: Then Peter answered *and* said to Him, ‘Behold, we have left everything and have followed You. What then shall be for us?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I say to you who have followed Me: in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit upon *the* throne of His glory, you also shall sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit eternal life” (vs 27-29).

Think about that time when the Levites and the others did leave; it was tough, I’m sure. But to follow God, at times it is necessary to leave family, lands and inheritances. A lot of us have experienced this in life. We’ve had to leave some of our former things to be able to follow God and to do what’s right before God. The point here is what we will all receive for doing that, and that’s *eternal life!* That’s why sometimes we have to do some of the things we do, because we seek God’s Kingdom and have eternal life. Even later there was more that left Israel to go to Judah and Jerusalem.

2-Chronicles 15:7—this was in the time of Asa, which as later: “‘But you be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.’ And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities, which he had taken from Mount Ephraim. And he renewed

the altar of the LORD before the porch of the LORD. And *he* gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon; for they fell to him out of Israel in great numbers, when they saw that the LORD his God *was* with him” (vs 7-9).

So, more did leave to follow God when they saw where God was and who God was with! It think it’s always important for us to always remember that **God and Christ love us, take care of us, and provide for us.**

As long as we continue to love Them and follow Them They will provide a place for us, provide Truth for us, even if it means in our homes. They will provide for us as long as we continue to follow Them and do what is right.

Let’s move to the man of God in 1-Kings 13:1: “And behold, **a man of God** came out of Judah by the Word of the Lord, to Bethel. And Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.”

Let’s talk a little bit about *a man of God*. What is **a man of God**?

- someone who God calls
- someone God uses
- someone Who exercises God’s will
- someone Who announces God’s Word

Whatever they’re entrusted to do, they do through the power of God and His Spirit being about them or within them! These are people whom God calls and uses, and they’re obedient to God.

A man of God that we’ll read a little bit about is Samuel. This was a time when Samuel was going to anoint Saul as king of Israel. Something that God wanted done; God has chosen Saul for this. Here Saul and a servant were caring for his father’s donkeys.

1-Samuel 9:6: “And he said to him, ‘Behold now, in this city *is* a man of God, and an honorable man. All that he says surely comes to pass. Now, let us go there. Perhaps he can declare our way to us, how to go.’.... [in relationship to what they were searching out] ...Then Saul said to his young man, ‘But behold, *if* we go, what shall we bring the man? For the bread in our vessels is gone, and *there is* no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?’ And the young man answered Saul again, and said, ‘Behold, I have found the fourth of a shekel of silver. I will give it to the man of God to tell us our way.’ (In the old days in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said this: ‘Come, let us go to the seer,’ for the prophet of today was formerly called a seer.) And Saul said to his young man, ‘Your word is good. Come, let us go.’ So they went into the city where the man of God *was*” (vs 6-10).

Verse 15: “And the LORD had told Samuel in his ear one day before Saul came, saying, ‘Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man out of the land of Benjamin. And you shall anoint him *to be* prince over My people Israel, so that he may save My people out of the hand of the Philistines, for I have looked upon My people because their cry has come to Me.’ And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, ‘Behold the man of whom I spoke to you! This *one* shall reign over My people.’ And Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate and said, ‘Please tell me where the seer’s house *is*.’ And Samuel answered Saul and said, ‘I *am* the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for you shall eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let you go, and will tell you all that is in your heart’” (vs 15-19).

We see that Samuel was this *man of God*; we know that Samuel was a prophet as well. *Samuel was a very faithful man of God, obedient to do God’s will as a man of God should be!*

When you look at us and you look at what Samuel was and what he did, the example he set, and his faithfulness and loyalty to God. We are the children of God, sons and daughters. When we think about being *a man of God*, it’s really important to remember that we always put the emphasis on **of God and not the man!**

- God is the One!
- God is the Truth!
- Everything is done through Him!
- Everything is done based upon His Word!

It’s very important to remember that it’s not the man, it’s God! It’s what is of God!

1-Kings 13:2: “And he 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 upon you he shall offer the priests of the high places who burn incense upon you, and men’s bones shall be burned upon you.”’ And he gave a sign the same day, saying, ‘This *is* the sign which the LORD has spoken. “Behold, the altar shall be torn apart, and the ashes that *are* upon it shall be poured out.”’ Then it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the **man of God** who had cried against the altar in Bethel, he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, ‘Lay hold on him!’ And his hand, which he put forth against him withered up so that he could not pull it in again to himself. The altar also was split asunder and the ashes poured out from the altar according to the sign, which the **man of God** had given by the Word of the Lord. And the king answered and said to the man of God, ‘Seek now the face of the LORD your God...’” (vs 2-6).

Jeroboam had forgotten Who God was, and

He now is someone else's God.

"...and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me again.' And the man of God prayed to the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him again and became as at the beginning. And the king said to the man of God, 'Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward.' And the man of God said to the king, 'If you will give me half your house, I will not go in with you, nor will I eat bread nor drink water in this place, for so was it commanded me by the Word of the Lord, saying, "Eat no bread nor drink water, nor return again by the same way that you came."'" Then he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel" (vs 6-10).

We know that *the man of God* had a lot of knowledge and understanding about what was happening in Israel, Dan and Bethel and the apostasy that had taken place there. It took courage to go do this, as God has instructed him to go and do this, knowing that he was facing the king of Israel, someone who was not going to be receptive to what he had to say through the prophecy that he gave.

He's going to be standing before Jeroboam, this king whom we read was *a mighty man of war!* It took courage to do this, but he went and did it just as God had commanded and told him to do. *This man of God* was obedient and delivered the prophecy to the king. Later it says that he prayed to God that the king's withered hand would be healed, and it was. God heard that prayer and healed the king.

Then *this man of God* was faced with a temptation. The king offered for him to come with him and 'I'll give you a reward. You can refresh yourself with me,' and he would give him something to eat or drink. But *this man of God* said *no, he wasn't going to do that!* He had clear instruction from God on what he should do. He did well and was obedient to God and followed what God said.

How important is it for us, who are the people of God, to follow what God says to do in His Word and instructions to us?

Verse 11: "And a certain *old prophet* was living 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 to the king they also told to their father. And their father said to them, 'Where *is this man?* What way did he go?' For his sons had seen what way the man of God had gone, who came from Judah. And he said to his sons, 'Saddle me the donkey.' And they saddled the donkey for him, and he rode on it, and 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*.' And he said to him, 'Come home with me and eat bread.' And he

said, 'I may not return with you nor go in with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place, for a word was *given* to me by the Word of the Lord, "You shall eat no bread nor drink water there, nor return again by the way that you came."'" And he said to him, 'I *am* a prophet also as you are. And an angel spoke to me by the Word of the Lord, saying, "Bring him back with you into your house, so that he may eat bread and drink water.'" But he lied to him" (vs 11-18).

There's a lot here! As we study God's Word, all the things that have been written down for us, we know that it's all Scripture is inspired by God and is God-breathed. When we read these accounts, it's amazing some of the details that are brought out and the information that's given to us and we think: *I wonder why it's there for us?* Especially some of the details and what's emphasized. As we continue to read and study and pray continually, we learn more and some of these details come clearer for us and we get more understanding. Isn't that interesting how God inspired His Word.

- What happened here?
- Why did *the man of God* believe the lie?

Verse 19: "So he went back with him and ate bread in his house, and drank water." *He went against what God said to do!* Can this happen to us? What did Christ say?

Matthew 10:16: "Behold, **I am sending you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves.** Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

What can we take note of in this account so far of *this man of God*? We need to listen to God and follow His clear instructions through His Word that's given to us. This man of God given very clear instructions. The instructions were: *eat no bread nor drink any water.* That's pretty clear. The other instruction was *not to return by the same way he came.* Two very clear instructions and to give the message to Jeroboam and not do these two things.

2-Corinthians 11:1—Paul says: "I would *that* you might bear with me in a little nonsense; but indeed, do bear with me. For I am jealous over you with *the* jealousy of God because I have espoused you to one husband, so that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds might be corrupted from *the* simplicity that *is* in Christ. For indeed, if someone comes preaching another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you did not receive, or a different gospel, which you did not accept, you put up with it as *something* good" (vs 1-5).

Once our minds have been opened to the Truth and the understanding. We need to be

following the clear words of God, His commandments and what He tells us to do. It's not complicated. What I'm talking about here is not about overcoming human nature and the things that we face every day in life. I'm not talking about that, because that takes a lot of work and effort.

What I'm talking about is the things that God clearly tells us to do, just like *the man of God* was told to do in His Word, and how we teach the commandments, how we keep the Sabbath, how we keep the Holy Days, especially the Passover. How we treat one another and love one another, especially God and Jesus Christ. It's important that we follow these commandments of God, because they're for us and they're simple.

John 8:37—Christ is talking to the Pharisees: “I know that you are Abraham's seed; but you are seeking to kill Me, because My words do not enter into your *minds*. I speak the things that I have seen from My Father, and you do the things that you have seen from your father.’ They answered and said to Him, ‘Our father is Abraham.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has spoken the Truth to you, which I have heard from God; Abraham did not do this. You are doing the works of your father.’ Then they said to Him, ‘We have not been born of fornication. We have one Father, *and that is God*’” (vs 37-41).

Verse 42: “Therefore, Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, because I proceeded forth and came from God. For I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why don't you understand My speech? Because you cannot *bear* to hear My words. You are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father you desire to practice. He was a murderer from *the* beginning, and has not stood in the Truth because there is no Truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he is speaking from his own *self*; for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I speak the Truth, you do not believe Me. Which *one* of you can convict Me of sin? But if I speak *the* Truth, why don't you believe Me? The one who is of God hears the words of God. For this reason you do not hear, because you are not of God’” (vs 42-47). *We are of God! We hear the words of God! We should stand in the Truth because there is no other way!*

God wants us to know His Word, and we talk about this continually, about how important it is that every day we study and pray. We should know God's Word.

1-Kings 13:17—*the man of God* was give the: “word was given to me by the Word of the Lord...” *The same word is given to us today, and*

we must know the difference between the Word of God and what a false teaching is.

Christ tells us that we know Who He is, we know what His voice sounds like; we know what His words sound like.

John 10:1—Jesus says: “Truly, truly I say to you, the one who does not enter the sheepfold through the door, but climbs up some other way, that one is a thief and a robber. But the one who enters through the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he brings the sheep out, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger for they will flee from him because they do not know the voice of strangers” (vs 1-5).

Verse 14: “I am the good Shepherd, and I know those who *are* Mine, and am known of those who *are* Mine.” *Those who belong to Christ know the words of Christ, they know the voice of Christ and God and they won't follow another!*

Unfortunately, *the man of God* that we read about, he did listen to another voice and that wasn't God's Word, that wasn't God Whom he was hearing; it was someone else.

Isaiah 8:19: “And when they shall say to you, ‘Seek unto them that have familiar spirits and to wizards who peep and mutter’—*but* should not a people seek unto their God? *Should* the dead *be sought* on behalf of the living? To the Law and to the Testimony! If they do not speak according to this Word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them” (vs 19-20).

So, *the old prophet* wasn't speaking according to God's Word, it clearly says that he lied. He said that his message came from an angel of the Lord. Where did that message come from? We know that God's Holy angels, the words that they speak and what they say truly do come from God, and they never contradict God in any way. At that time there were messages given by angels, God's words not the angels. In today's world we have God's Word in front of us to read from, given directly to us! But it's our responsibility to know the Truth from a lie. We just have to!

I'm going to read about the Bereans, because this is the kind of attitude that we need to have, being responsible to know the difference between Truth and lies.

Acts 17:10: “Then the brethren immediately sent away by night to Berea both Paul and Silas, who, when they arrived, went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now, these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, *for* they received the Word with all

readiness of mind *and* **examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so**" (vs 10-11).

This is the kind of attitude we need to have. It says that they *searched* "...examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." They had a readiness of mind. They were ready and their minds were set upon them and thinking about them, being mindful of what they needed to do. ***We need to have that same readiness of mind!*** Being ready to examine God's Word, and knowing that there are possibilities that there are sheep among wolves, ***that there are things out there that aren't true!*** We need to have that same readiness of mind, being ready to prove all things! To hold fast to what is good! That's what we should be doing; that's our responsibility.

Another point I want to bring regarding this *man of God* is that we cannot be respecters of persons.

Romans 2:6: "Who will render to each one according to his own works: on the one hand, to those who with patient endurance in good works are seeking glory and honor and immortality—eternal life; on the other hand, to those who are contentious and who disobey the Truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish—upon every soul of man who works out evil, both of *the Jew* first, and of *the Greek*; but glory and honor and peace to everyone who works good, both to *the Jew* first, and to *the Greek*, **because there is no respect of persons with God**" (vs 6-11).

- God doesn't look to men
- God doesn't look to titles
- God doesn't look to a person's wealth
- God doesn't look to a person's position
- God doesn't look to a person's talents or abilities

We know that all of these things come from God anyway, because we don't have anything that we haven't received! God is no respecter of persons. He will render to each one according to their works.

So, the old prophet said to *this man of God*, 'I'm a prophet as you are.' Another way of saying it *I'm like you*. Did this cause ***the man of God*** to become trusting and respectful because of what he said? *It may have!* He may have had respect for him because of his title and who he said ***the old prophet*** was.

But just because someone says that they are a minister, just because someone says that they are in the Church of God, or 'I'm a Sabbath-keeper like you; I keep the Sabbath, too'; or any other association that someone that may have something in common with us, **does that mean that they're**

like us? *NO! It doesn't at all mean that they're like us!*

1-John 4:1: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

The man of God knew that Israel, under Jeroboam, were turned over to all types of idol-worship and even demonic works (2-Chron.). they were involved in all types of things, and ***the man of God***, before he went there, he knew this; he knew what they were turned over to. So, maybe he should have asked questions when ***this old prophet*** said, 'I'm a prophet as you are; I'm like you.'

- If you're a prophet like I am, what are you doing here amongst this sin, this apostasy that's going on?
- Why are you here?
- Especially in Bethel right in the midst of where one of the golden calves was put?
- Are you preaching the Truth here?

If you're a prophet like me, you know the Truth!

- What are you telling the people that are sinning?
- Are you correcting them?
- Are you teaching the Truth here?

If you're like me, these are the things that you're going to be doing! But that wasn't the case! It's important to remember, thinking about being respecters of persons:

- What does God look at when it comes to people?
- What's important to God?

Isaiah 66:1: "Thus says the LORD, 'The heaven *is* My throne, and the earth *is* My footstool. Where then *is* the house that you build for Me? And where *is* the place of My rest? For all these things My hand has made, and these things came to be,' says the LORD. **'But to this one I will look, to him who is of a poor and contrite spirit and who trembles at My Word'**" (vs 1-2).

This is the attitude that we all want to have, and this is the attitude that we, hopefully, see in each other. Hopefully, we can say that we can be like each other, because we have an attitude like this: a humble attitude and "...a poor and contrite spirit..." A fear of God and His Word and what He tells us to do.

1-Corinthians 11:1: "Be imitators of me, exactly as I also *am* of Christ."

If we're going to have respect for anything, it's being like Christ! It's having an attitude and a character, and a mind that's like Christ. That's what

we should be looking for in ourselves, and most importantly in each other.

We don't want to be respecters of men or women, we want to look to being of God part, not the man part, because the *of God part* will show fruits of God's Spirit.

The last thing I want to bring out is that we need to remember that there are some who will trouble us. *The old prophet definitely troubled the man of God! There are some who will trouble us!*

Galatians 5:7: "You were running well. Who hindered you, *persuading you* not to obey the Truth? This persuasion *is* not *coming* from Him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. I am persuaded concerning you in *the* Lord that you will be otherwise minded; and he who troubles you shall bear the judgment, **whoever he may be**" (vs 7-10).

This man of God was running well. He was doing exactly what God told him to do. He was obedient and he even performed, by the power of God, a miracle. So, there are those—as Paul talks about here—who will hinder us. They trouble us. Just like *this old prophet; they pursue us!* We picked up on that *old prophet* got on his donkey and he wanted to know where *that man of God* was and where he was going, and *the old prophet* went after *the man of God* and pursued him! *We are pursued, also by those who would like to deceive us!*

- What was *the old prophet* involve in?
- By what spirit was he directed by

It's made clear in 2-Cor. what spirit is in people like this. Paul talks about that:

2-Corinthians 11:10: "As *the Truth* of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this boasting in the regions of Achaia. Why? Because I don't love you? God knows *I do*. But what I am doing, I will do, so that I may cut off *any* occasion from those who are desiring an occasion; so that in the things they boast of, they also may be found even as we *are*. For such *are* false apostles—deceitful workers who are transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And *it is* no marvel, for Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore, *it is* no great thing if his servants also transform themselves as ministers of righteousness—whose end shall be according to their works" (vs 10-15).

This kind of sums it up who *this old prophet* was. He was *a minister or servant of Satan*, a deceitful worker! That's exactly what he was.

1-Kings 13:19: "So he went back with him and ate bread in his house, and drank water. Then it came to pass as they sat at the table, the Word of the Lord came to the prophet who brought him back. And he cried to the man of God who came from

Judah, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, "Because you have not obeyed the mouth of the LORD and have not kept the commandment which the LORD your God commanded you, but came back and have eaten bread and have drunk water in the place which He said to you, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water,' your corpse shall not be *buried* in the tomb of your fathers'" (vs 19-22).

Verse 23: "Now, it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk that he saddled the donkey for him, for the prophet whom he had brought back. Then he left, and a lion met him by the way and killed him. And his dead body was thrown on the highway, and the donkey stood by it, and the lion also stood by the body. And behold, men passed by and saw the body thrown in the way, and the lion standing by the body. And they came and told *it* in the city where the old prophet lived" (vs 23-25).

Verse 26: "And when the prophet who brought him back from the way heard *it*, he said, 'It *is* the man of God who did not obey the Word of the Lord. And the LORD has delivered him to the lion which has torn him and killed him, according to the Word of the Lord which He spoke to him.' And he spoke to his sons, saying, 'Saddle the donkey for me.' And they saddled it. And he went and found his body thrown in the highway, and the donkey and the lion standing by the body. The lion had not eaten the body nor torn the donkey. And **the prophet took up the dead body of the man of God**, and laid it upon the donkey and brought it back. And the prophet came to the city to mourn and to bury him. And he laid his body in his own grave. And they mourned over him, saying, 'Alas, my brother!' And it came to pass after he had buried him, he spoke to his sons, saying, 'When I am dead, then bury me in the tomb in which **the man of God** *is* buried. Lay my bones beside his bones, for the saying which he cried by the Word of the Lord against the altar in Bethel and against all the houses of the high places in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass'" (vs 26-32).

We don't want this outcome for ourselves nor for anyone whom God has called. For us this can mean *spiritual death* if we fall into a lie and go into apostasy ourselves.

The man of God's body was on the highway for all to see who passed by. They got to see the one who had disobeyed God, and the lion was there standing by the body along with the donkey. The lion didn't care about the donkey; it was there for a purpose. It's purpose that day was to kill *this man of God*, which it did!

1-Peter 5:6: "Be humbled, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt you in *due* time; casting all your cares upon Him, because

He cares for you. Be sober! Be vigilant! For your adversary *the* devil is prowling about as a roaring lion, seeking anyone he may devour” (vs 6-8).

It says here that we have to be awake! We have to be watching carefully! That’s what this means for danger, for difficulties.

Satan is like this lion that killed *this man of God*. He’s out there seeking whomever he may devour. So, whether God allows that, or we allow that to happen ourselves, we have to be on guard for that. As it talked about in Acts, we have to have this readiness of mind, knowing that this can happen if we do not follow what God says to do and obey Him.

Old prophets, false prophets, servants of Satan—whatever you want to call them—are dangerous, very dangerous. Why? *Because they know Who God and Jesus Christ are!* Just like this *old prophet* knew Who God was. They have knowledge of God’s plan, they have knowledge of God’s Word, and they know that God’s Word will come to pass. This *old prophet* knew that God’s Word would come to pass. But these people of this mind are in rebellion. They lie and they know exactly what they’re doing!

Jude gives us a warning; Jude 3: “Beloved, when personally exerting all *my* diligence to write to you concerning the common salvation, I was compelled to write to you, exhorting *you* to fervently fight for the faith, which once for all *time* has been delivered to the saints. For certain men have stealthily crept in, those who long ago have been written about, condemning *them* to this judgment. *They are* ungodly men who are perverting the grace of our God, *turning it* into licentiousness, **and are personally denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ**” (vs 3-4).

Verse 8: “In the same way also, these dreamers of *filthy dreams* are defiling *the* flesh, and are declaring as invalid *the* Lordship of *God*, and are blaspheming *the* Divine powers.”

Verse 12: “These are subversive stains in your love feasts, feasting in person together *with you*; fearlessly they are feeding themselves. *They are* clouds without water, being driven by the winds; trees of late autumn, without *any* fruit, uprooted, twice dead; raging waves of *the* sea, casting up like foam their own *ignominious* shame; wandering stars, for whom has been reserved the blackest darkness forever!” (vs 12-13).

Verse 16: “These are complainers *and* critics, who are walking after their own personal lusts, *while* their mouths are speaking great swelling words, flattering persons for the sake of advantage. But you, beloved, remember the words that were

spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; because they said to you that in *the* last time there would be mockers, who would be selfishly walking according to their own ungodly lusts. These are the ones who cause division; *they are* psychic, **not having the Spirit of God**” (vs 16-19).

This is important to remember. They are influenced by another power, another spirit that comes from Satan. ***They do not have the Spirit of God!*** It’s very clear that the Spirit of God is not in these people!

Jude gives us this warning for today, and there are ***old prophets*** around today, and I think we all know that. They have feasted right with us, and in some cases they are now feasting with our brethren. We don’t have to be afraid, but we have to recognize who they are by what they say and what they do.

Finally, brethren, as men and women of God—His children—we need to be obedient to God’s Word and follow His very clear instructions. If we do this, God will take care of us in all ways. *He’ll be faithful to do that, and we know that!*

Verse 20: “But you, beloved, *be* building up yourselves on your most Holy faith, praying in *the* Holy Spirit, **so that you keep yourselves in the love of God while you are personally awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life**” (vs 20-21).

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1 Kings 11:26-38
- 2) 1 Kings 12:20, 26-33
- 3) 2 Chronicles 11:1-5, 16-17
- 4) Matthew 19:27-29
- 5) 2 Chronicles 15:7-9
- 6) 1 Kings 13:1
- 7) 1 Samuel 9:6-10, 15-19
- 8) 1 Kings 13:2-19
- 9) Matthew 10:16
- 10) 2 Corinthians 11:1-5
- 11) John 8:37-47
- 12) 1 Kings 13:17
- 13) John 10:1-5, 14
- 14) Isaiah 8:19-20
- 15) Acts 17:10-11
- 16) Romans 2:6-11
- 17) 1 John 4:1
- 18) Isaiah 66:1-2
- 19) 1 Corinthians 11:1
- 20) Galatians 5:7-10
- 21) 3 Corinthians 11:10-15
- 22) 1 Kings 13:19-32
- 23) 1 Peter 5:6-8
- 24) Jude 3-4, 8, 12-13, 16-21

TF:bo

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