

1 KINGS 13:1-10 – 2026 THE MESSAGE OF THE MAN OF GOD TO JEROBOAM!

3/14/26 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, <https://www.ptwente.com> 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

1 Kings 12-16 – The Beginning of the End Israel – The Glory Begins to Fade

These chapters record “the beginning of the end.” With the death of Solomon, the nation’s glory begins to fade. First Kings covers about 125 years of history, 40 years of Solomon’s reign, and about 85 years for the divided kingdom of Israel and Judah. Five kings (*Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijam, Asa, Jehoshaphat*) reigned in Judah during that period, while eight kings (*Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah*) reigned in Israel, and all of them were wicked.

A Man of God Confronts Jeroboam

1Ki 13:1 *And behold, a man of God (15x this chapter) went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, and Jeroboam (wrongly acting as a priest) stood by the altar to burn incense.*

- *A man of God* (unnamed) *went from Judah to Bethel*: Demonstrating that one does not need to be famous to be significantly used by God.

1Ki 13:2 *Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.'"*

- **Behold, a child, Josiah by name,... shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you:** This is a remarkable prophecy that would be precisely fulfilled 325 years later. *2Ki 23:15*.
- *men's bones shall be burned on you....defiling the altar!*

1Ki 13:3 *And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."*

- Here God also gives Jeroboam an immediate sign!

1Ki 13:4 *So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Arrest him!" Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself.*

1Ki 13:5 *The altar also was split apart, 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.*

- **Arrest him!** Jeroboam’s reaction was immediate, trying to silence the messenger rather than responding to the message from God, inviting Jeroboam to repent!
- **His hand, which he stretched out....withered...he could not pull it back:** God confirmed His word of judgment in two ways -- judging the disobedient king of his most glaring sin! Secondly, He fulfilled the immediate word against the altar (*the altar also was split apart*).

1Ki 13:6 *Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please entreat the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before.*

- **Please entreat the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored:** Here under the judgment of God, Jeroboam had no use for golden calves or their altars. He knew that his only hope was in the *LORD*.
- **As later chapters will show,** Jeroboam didn’t really repent here; or if he did, it was only for a moment. **Wanting to receive something from God is not the same as repentance.**
- **...man of God entreated the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored to him:** The man of

God showed great grace to Jeroboam. He quickly moved from being under arrest to being an intercessor for his persecutor. What great mercy is shown from the man of God, and especially from God in answering his prayer.

1Ki 13:7 *Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward."*

1Ki 13:8 *But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place."*

- ***I will give you a reward:*** Jeroboam quickly embraced the man of God as a friend. He wanted to refresh and reward him, without any repentance from his sin!

1Ki 13:9 *For so it was commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came.'"*

1Ki 13:10 *So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel.*

- **If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place:** The man of God refused the invitation, not even to drink water while in the idolatrous territory of Israel, which would demonstrate fellowship with his idolatry.
- **We will see later an "old prophet" will offer the same thing to this man of God, distracting him by a lying prophesy.** The man of God responds to this distraction, which will cost him his life, as the LORD had promised.
- **This is an important application for us! When instructed by God's Word to obey, we must not be distracted to disobedience by anything else!**
- Note the reminder in *(Gal 1:8)* ***But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.***

SUMMARY:

- **An unnamed man of God...** that one does not need to be famous to be used by God.
- **Jeroboam's was judged His hand,** withered...he could not pull it back.
- **We see God's great grace!** Following the man of God's prayer. Jeroboam was healed!
- **The man of God was initially faithful** to God's command not to eat or drink, in Israel!
- **Be obedient to the word of God! Later the young prophet,** disobeyed, costing His life.
- **We need to heed God's word through enablement by the Holy Spirit,** not being distracted!

THE LOVE OF GOD — Frederick Lehman – Phelps, Penrod & Gardner

The love of God is greater far Than tongue or pen can ever tell; It goes beyond the highest star, And reaches to the lowest hell; The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win; His erring child He reconciled, And pardoned from his sin.

Refrain: Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure— The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made, Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe by trade; To write the love of God above Would drain the ocean dry; Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Though stretched from sky to sky. (Refrain)

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Court. Key 2026 Cabinet Members & Officials: President; **Donald Trump**; VP: **J.D. Vance**; Sec of State: **Marco Rubio**; Sec of the Treasury: **Scott Bessent**; Sec of War: **Pete Hegseth**; Sec of Homeland Security: **Markwayne Mullin**; Attorney General: **Pam Bondi**; Speaker of the House: **Mike Johnson**; Senate Majority Leader: **John Thune**.