

# EXPOSITION OF I KINGS 13<sup>1</sup>

(by Pastor John Ashbrook)

**INTRODUCTION:** II Jn. 7-11 was read. "Now go to I Kings 13. (Background: I Kings 12:25-ff) This was written after King Solomon had died & Jeroboam had led 10 tribes north, in disobedience, & had set up false centers of worship in Dan (north) & Beersheba (south). So, God sent this "nameless" prophet to rebuke him. There are three scenes in this chapter.

- I. **A SCENE OF VICTORY - vv. 1-10** The nameless prophet was going to do 4 things:
  - A. **HE GAVE A PROPHECY** - v. 2 It was not some ambiguous, vague prophecy, but a very definite, very specific prophecy. **LESSON:** It's easy for individuals to claim to be prophets & mouth vague platitudes, but genuine prophets give direct, specific prophecies. The complete fulfillment of this prophecy would not come about until 300 years later! cf. II Kings 23:15. Josiah's fulfillment of this prophecy occurred 300 years later.
  - B. **HE GAVE A SIGN** - vv. 3-5 Since the prophecy the nameless prophet gave would not be fulfilled for many years, this prophet also needed an immediate sign. So the altar splits (like a rock splitting that is in a fire, with a loud "crack"). The king's hand also froze!
  - C. **HE PERFORMED A HEALING** - v. 6. He fixed up the king's hand. God mercifully restored the king's hand.
  - D. **HE REFUSED AN INVITATION** - v. 7 Jeroboam probably didn't like the prophet but was scared to death. **LESSON:** Remember that not all repentance or sorrow, is godly repentance or sorrow. Notice that the prophet REFUSED. If he had gone home with Jeroboam after just condemning idolatry, he would have been going home with the chief idolater! The prophet refused. **LESSON:** Men will stand and preach the word of God, but then they don't put it into practice. Watch what people do, more than what they say. Why did the nameless prophet refuse? God had told him not to do that! (v.8). After all, **WHERE IN SCRIPTURE DO WE FIND THAT WE SHOULD TREAT FALSE TEACHERS WITH CHARITY? Do shepherds "dialogue" with grievous wolves? It doesn't happen!**
- II. **A SCENE OF COMPROMISE - vv. 11-19.** Now remember, the prophet was given orders not to eat or drink there.
  - A. **WE MEET SOMEONE** - vv. 11-ff An old prophet comes on the scene. Here was an old prophet who once had been God's servant. This guy had closed his mouth, probably in order to save his life, since Jeroboam had probably "liquidated" many of God's true servants. And this old prophet's boys had been at the idol feast too! Perhaps now this old prophet thought, "at last, a kindred spirit."

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B. THE NAMELESS PROPHET MET TWO KINDS OF TEMPTATION.

1. The Temptation Which Comes Clearly from the Enemy. (Jeroboam) v. 7. The devil today is building a church of unity. The ecumenical crowd. (III: Ashbrook & the Lake County Min. Assoc. offer to let him broadcast in their time slot, under their title, for 6 weeks. He said "No." Later God opened another door... which he would have missed if he had disobeyed God and taken up the first offer!).
2. The Temptation That Comes Clearly from Friends. vv. 16-19. The old prophet convinced the nameless prophet to come back with him. The old man lied to him, but the thing that blinded the nameless prophet's eyes is that this old man was a REAL brother! So he forgot his orders from God. The temptations that are most dangerous are from friends.
  - a. The pressure from friends is much more dangerous than from the enemies. (e.g. Billy Graham Crusades, & the pressure that is put on Bible-believing churches to participate in them).
  - b. The results also blind peoples' eyes. "Brother, look at the thousands that are being saved!"
  - c. "We've prayed about this, and we can feel the leading of the Spirit!" (III: The couple in Ashbrook's church whose spouses weren't faithful in church, and so they wanted to divorce their mates and marry each other "to serve the Lord better." His response: "You're a LIAR!" How did he know?  
**ANSWER: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ALL OF HISTORY HAS NEVER LED ONE PERSON CONTRARY TO THE WORD OF GOD."**  
Remember: There is a whole group of Bible believers who want to recruit us into ecumenism. The person who is dangerous to us is the disobedient or untaught Bible-believer, not the apostate i.e. the group in the middle!

III. A SCENE OF DEFEAT - vv. 20-32. This is one of the strangest scenes in all of Scripture.

- A. A PREDICTION - vv. 20-22. This was by the OLD prophet. God hadn't been using him, but would use him now, to utter the most difficult prophecy he would undoubtedly ever utter: The nameless prophet would die!
- B. A PICTURE - vv. 23-25. Here is a man-eating lion who wouldn't eat a man and a donkey who didn't run from the lion! Why this unnatural scene? It was the stamp of the hand of God on what had happened by the side of the road! God wanted people to know that this wasn't just an accident.
  1. WHAT ABOUT "WHAT PEOPLE WILL THINK?" You know, we always worry, when we have to say "No," about what people will think. Notice here that God wasn't worried at all about what people thought! Most people who heard about the nameless prophet dying probably thought the guy wasn't a prophet after all! God didn't care!

2. "WHY DID GOD PUNISH THE YOUNGER PROPHET, YET NOTHING HAPPENED TO THE "BAD GUY" i.e. the old prophet?

ANSWER: **God is most severe in His discipline of those whom He is using in any given moment in history.** The old man had been set on the shelf, so God didn't really worry about him. In this last hour, God is using the Bible-believing, fundamentalist movement. But don't forget: If any person, group, school, or movement is not obedient to God & His Word, God will leave that person, school, group or movement "lying by the side of the road." (i.e. lay them aside). God can raise up others. The only thing we are to do is to OBEY GOD! Stick your fingers in your ears when the siren song of temptation calls to us!