



Lesson 111

The Disobedient Man of God

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 1 Kings 13:11-32 • Setting: circa 930 B.C. • Main Characters: God, an unnamed man of God from Judah, and an unnamed prophet from Bethel. • Plot: The man of God who prophesied against Jeroboam's idolatry disobeys the divine directive and suffers for it. • Key word(s): "the _____ of the LORD" vv. 1, 2, 5, 9, 17, 18, 20, 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climax: 1 Kings 13:18 <i>He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him. 19 So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.</i> |
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The Lie

1. (1 Ki. 13:11-13) An old prophet who lived in Bethel heard of the man of God's prophesy against Jeroboam's paganism. Immediately we are struck with indications of the Bethel prophet's _____ character:
 - (a) Most of the truly _____ Israelites had departed from the northern kingdom in favor of Judah's religious faithfulness. (2 Ch. 11:16-17)
 - (b) The fact that this prophet's sons had immediately heard of the man of God's prophesy and that they knew in which direction he left suggests they were _____ the pagan scene with Jeroboam at Bethel.

2. (1 Ki. 13:14-17) After finding the man of God resting under an oak tree, the prophet from Bethel invited him to his house for rest and _____. The man of God responded in a similar way that he responded to Jeroboam, "I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee...For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest."

3. (1 Ki. 13:18-19) In an effort to lure the man of God away from the his true course, and thereby to discredit his message, the prophet of Bethel lied and claimed that the LORD had given him a word that changed the original directive. Why do you think the prophet lied? _____

4. (1 Ki. 13:20-23) As the man of God ate with the deceptive prophet, a true word from the LORD came to the prophet that warned the man of God that he would suffer a

disgraceful death. (The lack of a proper burial was a sign of terrible _____.)

The Lion

5. (1 Ki. 13:24-28) Indeed, as the man of God traveled home, he was attacked and killed by a lion, and his body lay in the road as a public spectacle. Over his body stood the lion and the donkey – the lion not attacking and the donkey not fleeing. What do you think is the significance of this detail? _____

6. (1 Ki. 13:29-32) Upon hearing the news of the man of God's demise, the prophet of Bethel fetched his body and buried him in his own sepulchre. The entire event so impressed the prophet that the man of God's message was truly divine that he requested his sons to bury him next to the man of God's bones. This was in anticipation of the fulfillment of the prophecy regarding _____, the coming king who would one day desecrate Jeroboam's altar and the bodies of the unfaithful. (see 2 Ki. 23:16-18)

Application

7. In this story we are reminded of a truth that Albert Barnes put this way: "It is always to be remembered that the prophetic gift might co-exist with various degrees of moral imperfection in the person possessing it."¹ Can you think of another prophet that was morally bankrupt? _____
8. The importance of a proper burial is significant to the Jews. This story helps to show the piety of Joseph of Arimathaea who desired to honor the body of Jesus. It also dispels the notion that the disciples of Jesus would have _____ his body. Such an action would've been horrifying to those who wished to honor him. (Matt. 28:11-15)

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): word • 1. dubious; a) pious; b) attending • 2. refreshment • 3. He lied to lure the man of God away from the true course, and thereby to discredit his message. He must've been sympathetic to Jeroboam idolatry • 4. judgment • 5. The abnormal behavior of the animals provided a sign that the man of God's death was divine judgment and giving even more credibility to his prophecy against Jeroboam • 6. Josiah • 7. Balaam • 8. stolen

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Albert Barnes, *Notes on the Old Testament: I Samuel to Esther*, ed. F. C. Cook, J. M. Fuller (London: John Murray, 1879) 188.