### 1 Kings

## Chapter 13

1Well at that, {Look!} a man of God came to BethEl from Judah with a message from Jehovah.  
  
He climbed on top of the sacrificial altar there 2and shouted these words of the Lord:  
  
 ‘O altar, O altar,  
  
 ‘Hear what Jehovah has said!  
  
 ‘{Look!} In the house of David, a son has been born,  
 Who’s been given the name, JosiAh.  
 Then on these high places, he’ll offer the priests  
 Who now lay the sacrifices upon it;  
 And upon these [same altars], he’ll burn up their bones.’  
  
3Then he performed a miracle...  
  
He said:  
  
 ‘This is what Jehovah told me:  
  
 ‘{Look!} The altar has now been torn down,  
 And all the fat upon it has spilled [on the ground]!’  
  
4Well, when King JeroBoam heard what the man of God said as he stood there on the altar in BethEl, he reached out towards the altar and shouted:  
  
 ‘Seize him!’  
  
But just as he said that, the hand that he stuck out started to wither, and he wasn’t able to draw it back! 5And then the altar miraculously cracked and spilled all the fat that had been placed there, just as the man of God had told them that Jehovah said!  
  
6So King JeroBoam said to the man of God:  
  
 ‘Go before the face of Jehovah your God and beg Him to return my hand to me!’  
  
And the man of God [did speak before] the face of Jehovah, and the king’s hand did return to him, becoming the same as it was before.  
  
7Well after that, the king said to the man of God:  
  
 ‘Come with me to my palace and dine with me, and I’ll give you a gift.’  
  
8But the man of God said to the king:  
  
 ‘Even if you were to give me half of everything that’s [in] your palace, I wouldn’t go with you, nor would I eat food or drink water in this place!  
  
 9‘For, this is what the Lord told me:  
  
 ‘Don’t eat any bread or drink any water,  
 And don’t return by the way that you came.’  
  
10So when he left BethEl, he traveled towards home by another route.  
  
  
11Well and at the time, there was another prophet living in BethEl (an older man)... So when his sons came to him and told him everything that the man of God had done that day in BethEl and of the things that the king had said, the face of their father changed, 12and he asked them:  
  
 ‘Which way did he go?’  
  
So his sons pointed out the way that the man of God was traveling (towards Judah), 13and he said to his sons:  
  
 ‘Saddle my burro for me!’  
  
14So they saddled his burro and he mounted it; then he went after the man of God and he found him sitting under an oak tree.  
  
And he asked:  
  
 ‘Are you the man of God who came from Judah?’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘I am.’  
  
15So [the prophet] said:  
  
 ‘Come with me and have something to eat.’  
  
16But [the man of God] replied:  
  
 ‘There’s no way that I can come with you, nor may I eat bread or drink water in this place!  
  
 17‘For Jehovah told me:  
  
 ‘Don’t eat any bread, nor drink any water,  
 And don’t return by the way that you came.’  
  
18However, the other man replied:  
  
 ‘But, I’m a prophet just like you! And a messenger [of God] came and gave me these words from Jehovah…  
  
 ‘He said:  
  
 ‘Take him back to your house and give him some food and water!’  
  
However, he was lying.  
  
19So [the man of God] went back with him and he ate bread and drank water there in [the prophet’s] house. 20But, as they were sitting down at the table, the word of Jehovah came to the prophet that did the inviting, 21and he said to the man of God who had come from Judah:  
  
 ‘This is what the Lord just told me:  
  
 ‘Because you disobeyed the Lord’s instructions and you didn’t do as you were commanded by Jehovah your God 22when you returned to eat bread and drink water in this place where He told you not to eat any bread or drink any water... There’s no way that your body will be buried with your ancestors.’  
  
23And that’s what happened.  
  
For, after he ate bread, drank water, and saddled his burro for the return, 24he was found by a lion and killed along the road! Then his body just laid there in the road with the burro standing next to it, as the lion stood nearby.  
  
25Well, when some men came along and found the body starting to decay, they pushed it off the road… But then the lion returned to it.  
  
Well thereafter, they went back and reported the matter in the city where the elderly prophet lived. 26And when the prophet heard what had happened to the man of God along the road, he said:  
  
 ‘This is what happens to those who rebel against the Word of Jehovah.  
  
 ‘For it was the Lord who sent the lion… It attacked him and killed him, just as Jehovah foretold.’  
  
27Then he spoke to his sons and said:  
  
 ‘Now, saddle my burro for me!’  
  
So they saddled it, 28and he went and found the body that had been tossed alongside the road next to his burro… And there was the lion standing by the body.  
  
However, the lion hadn’t eaten the body of the man of God, nor had it attacked his burro. 29So the prophet picked up the body, placed it on his own burro, and he carried it back to his city and buried him 30in his own tomb, as [the people] beat their chests over him, saying:  
  
 ‘Woe, O brother!’  
  
31Then, after beating their chests over him, the prophet said this to his sons:  
  
 ‘When I die, I want you to bury me in the tomb where we’ve put this man of God... Put me next to his bones, so that my bones will be preserved along with his bones.  
  
 32‘For Jehovah used him to speak against the altar in BethEl and against the temples on the hilltops in Samaria.’  
  
  
33Meanwhile, what [the man of God] had said to JeroBoam didn’t really turn him from his evil ways. For he went and appointed any man who wanted the position to be a priest in the high places, and the posts were filled by all whom he chose.  
  
34This was the sin that eventually brought the house of JeroBoam to its ruin and extinction from the face of the earth.