

Listen Up!...

There is a sad story in 1 Kings chapter 13. As you recall Jeroboam, fearing that Israel would desert his rule if they worshiped Jehovah in Jerusalem as they were instructed at the site of the temple, he created two golden calves and told the people that these were their gods who brought them out of Egypt. A brave unnamed prophet from Judah came and interrupted Jeroboam as he was in the process of making offerings to this idol he had built in the city of Bethel. This prophet made a bold prophesy that a king from Judah by the name of Josiah would defile the altar by sacrificing human bones on it.

A prophet was verified by his prophesy if it came to pass. So this prophet also gave them a sign. The altar would be torn and ashes would spill from it.

This prophesy did not please Jeroboam. He stretched out his hand pointing at this upstart prophet as to say, "Seize him!" But when he stretched out his arm it dried up and he could not move it, and at that moment the altar split apart and ashes spilled out! Now this got Jeroboam's attention. Now he knows that this prophet was the real deal coming from God, so Jeroboam invited the prophet to his house to reward him.

When the king did so the prophet told everyone what his instructions were from the Lord. He was commanded not to return home the same way he went, and not to eat or drink till he returned. So, he left to go back home.

Meanwhile an older prophet from Bethel witnessed all this, and he sent his sons to fetch the prophet from Judah to his house. Of course, the prophet refused recalling the instructions from the Lord!

But the old prophet murdered him by convincing him that God had told him that it was ok to come to his house. He was lying! At the end of their meal together the old prophet did receive a word from the Lord, and that word was that the prophet from Judah would die because he did not follow God's instructions!

Just as Satan murdered Eve, this older prophet killed the younger prophet by convincing him to disobey God's instructions.

I have always felt sorry for the brave prophet who came from Judah and who prophesied against the idols' altar. But there are lessons we learn.

God doesn't change His instructions, so when God speaks to us, listen up! God said to Peter, James and John at the mountain of transfiguration: ***"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!"***

In 2 John v.9 John tells us that when we abide in the teachings of Jesus God is with us. If we go further He is not with us.

When God speaks, listen carefully! Your salvation depends on it!