

1 Kings 13

Chapter 13 of 22 · 34 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Man of God from Judah

¹ And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Beth-el: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

² And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

³ And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.

⁴ And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Beth-el, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.

⁵ The altar also was rent, 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.

⁶ And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.

⁷ And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.

8 And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:

9 For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.

10 So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Beth-el.

The Prophet's Disobedience

11 Now there dwelt an old prophet in Beth-el; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Beth-el: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.

12 And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.

13 And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon,

14 And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am.

15 Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.

16 And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place:

17 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.

18 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.

20 And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back:

21 And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee,

22 But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the LORD did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.

23 And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back.

24 And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.

25 And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

26 And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him.

27 And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him.

28 And he went and found his carcase cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcase: the lion had not eaten the carcase, nor torn the ass.

29 And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him.

30 And he laid his carcase in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother!

31 And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones:

32 For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Beth-el, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass.

33 After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

34 And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Altar — מִזְבֵּחַ (Mizbeach)

Altar, place of sacrifice

The Hebrew **mizbeach** (מִזְבֵּחַ) means altar—from the root 'to slaughter.' Altars were places where sacrifices were offered to God, pointing forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Priest — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

Prophet — נָבִיא (Navi)

Prophet, spokesman

The Hebrew **navi** (נָבִיא) means prophet—one who speaks God's word to the people. Prophets received divine revelation and declared God's message, often calling Israel to repentance and foretelling future events.

Repent — שׁוּב / נָחַם (Shuv / Nacham)

To turn back, relent

The Hebrew **shuv** (שׁוּב) means to turn or return—a physical turning that represents spiritual redirection back to God. **Nacham** (נָחַם) conveys grief or relenting, often used of God 'repenting' of judgment.

Sin — חטאָה (Chatta'ah)

Sin, missing the mark

The Hebrew **chatta'ah** (חטאָה) means sin—missing the mark of God's standard. It encompasses rebellion, transgression, and falling short of divine holiness.

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Kings 13:1

Sacrifice: 2 Kings 23:17; Jeremiah 32:29. **Word:** Jeremiah 25:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:15

1 Kings 13:2 **Word:** Ezekiel 36:1

1 Kings 13:3 **Parallel theme:** Judges 6:17; John 2:18; 1 Corinthians 1:22

1 Kings 13:4 **Parallel theme:** Revelation 11:5

1 Kings 13:6

Prayer: Exodus 10:17; Numbers 21:7; Acts 8:24. **References Lord:** Exodus 8:8; 9:28.

References God: Exodus 8:28

1 Kings 13:7 **References God:** 2 Kings 5:15

1 Kings 13:8 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 5:6; 7:2; Numbers 24:13; 2 Kings 5:16; Mark 6:11.

References God: Exodus 5:3; Numbers 22:18. **Kingdom:** Mark 6:23

1 Kings 13:11 **Prophecy:** 2 Kings 23:18

1 Kings 13:17 **Word:** 1 Kings 20:35

1 Kings 13:18 **Prophecy:** Matthew 7:15; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:1. **Word:** Numbers 22:35

1 Kings 13:24 **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 20:36

1 Kings 13:28 **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 17:4; 17:6; Job 38:11; Daniel 3:22; Acts 16:26

1 Kings 13:30 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 22:18

1 Kings 13:32 **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 12:31; 16:24; Leviticus 26:30. **Word:** 1 Kings 13:2

1 Kings 13:33 **Creation:** 2 Chronicles 11:15; 13:9

1 Kings 13:34 **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 14:10. **Sin:** 1 Kings 12:30; 2 Kings 17:21

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