

***What are we supposed to take away from this odd story about a lying prophet and a weird lion?***

*Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. 1Kings 13:11–32 looks forward to the morning sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these twenty-two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that the Lord often shows some of His Words true in order to stir up our confidence in the other things that He has said.*

**Wednesday, May 11, 2022 • Read 1Kings 13:11–32**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Who dwelt where (v11)? What two things do his sons come tell him? What does he ask them (v12)? What had they seen? What does he tell them to do (v13)? What do they do? What does he do? Where does he go (v14)? Whom does he find where (v14)? What does he ask him? With what answer? What does the old prophet say (despite knowing what the man of God had said, v15)? What does the man of God answer (v16)? Why (v17)? What does the old prophet say about himself (v18)? What does he say has happened to him (cf. Gal 1:8)? What had the old prophet done (end of v18)? What did the man of God do (v19)? What now came to the old prophet (v20)? Of what did he accuse the man of God (v21–22)? With what consequence? Now what did the old prophet do for the man of God (v23)? What met the man of God on the road (v24)? What did it do to him? What didn't it kill? What did it do with the corpse? Who passed by and saw this (v25)? What did they do where? Who heard it (v26)? What did he say? What does he tell his sons to do (v27)? Where does he go (v28)? What still hasn't done what? What does the prophet do to the corpse (v29)? Whose body is it still? Where does he bring it? To do what two things? Where does he lay the corpse (v30)? How does he mourn him? After burying him, what does he ask his sons to do (v31)? What does he confirm in v32?*

God's Word is always true and powerful. The man of God from Judah found that out the hard way in our passage. Maybe the true prophet's false prophecy of v18 sounded plausible because he had gone a different way (v10), and he still tracked him down (the man of God doesn't seem to have had access to the info in v12b). Many genuine believers, even today, are sucked into false teaching by apparent "signs" and claims of revelatory religious experience (cf. v18a).

But there's an easy way to determine what to do. Go by what God has already said (v17), which in our case must be the completed Scriptures by Christ the great Prophet (cf. Heb 1:1–2), both through His former prophets (Heb 1:1, 1Pet 1:10–11) and through the apostles to whom the Holy Spirit gave what remained for Him to say at the end of His earthly life (Heb 1:2, John 16:12–13). When God has spoken clearly, even if an angel were to seem to say differently (v18, cf. Gal 1:8, 2Cor 11:14), we must not stray from His Word. v21 makes it clear: the Lord considers such straying disobedience to the Word of Yahweh and failing to keep the commandment of Yahweh.

God's Word to the man of God held true. He didn't see that the old prophet was lying, and he ended up killed by a lion. Strange sort of lion. It's not hungry, or it would eat the man. It's not angry, or it would kill the donkey. The powerful lion is subject to the infinite power of God's Word.

God's Word to the prophet held true as well. The man of God's corpse did not come back to the tomb of his fathers (v22).

And God's Word against the altar in Bethel would prove true too (v32).

God's Word proves true. And everyone is under its power, even kings and prophets.

The man of God was a good man, by all accounts. He stood up to Jeroboam. He was admired by the old prophet (cf. v30). He was later respected by Josiah himself (cf. 2Kings 23:17–18). He knew the truth and power of the Word of God. He was adamant at first to obey it, and had begun to do so.

But even such a man was prone to stumbling. And even such a man's momentary stumbling could have dreadful consequences. The Lord help His people to take His Word seriously at all times and cling to it, no matter who contradicts it, or how small a thing it seems to be about!

What commands of God are you in danger of treating as small? What contradicting words against it threaten to make you think it's ok to do so? How does taking this passage seriously encourage you to respond to that threat?

*Sample prayer: Lord, sometimes we treat Your Word as if disobedience is dangerous to evil kings like Jeroboam but not to respectable believers like the man of God—or like ourselves. Forgive us for being willing to give an ear to those who would make us feel justified in disobeying You. Make us to cling to Your Word and not give in to claims of special knowledge or pressure from others. Count Christ's righteousness for us, who perfectly followed Your word in all things. And make us to be like Him, we ask in His Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP1 "How Blessed the Man" or TPH173 "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"**

**For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit [bit.ly/harpCHAH](https://bit.ly/harpCHAH)**

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

First Kings 13 verse 11 through 32. These are the words of God. Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel and his sons came and told him all the works. That the man of God had done that day and Bethel. They also told their father, the words which he had spoken to the king and their father said to them, which way did he go for his sons?

Had seen the wet. Which way the man of God went who came from Judah. Then he said to his sons, sat all the donkey for me. So they saddle the donkey for him and he wrote it and went after the man of God and found him sitting under an oak, Then he said to him, are you the man of God who came from Judah?

And he said, I am then he said to him come home with me and eat bread and he said I cannot return with you. Nor go in with you Neither. Can I eat bread? Nor drink water with you in this place For, I have been told by the word of Yahweh.

You shall not eat bread. Nor drink water there nor return by going the way you came. He said to him, I too am a prophet as you are and an angel spoke to me by the word of Yahweh saying. Bring him back with you to your house that he may eat bread and drink water.

He was lying to him. So, he went back with him and ate bread in his house and drank water. Now, what happened, as they sat at the table that the word of Yahweh came to the prophet who had brought him back and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah saying, Thus says, Yahweh because you have disobeyed, the Word of Yahweh and have not kept the commandment, which Yahweh your God commanded.

You but you came back, it bred and drink water in the place of which Yahweh said to you, eat? No bread and drink. No water. Your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers. So it was after he had eaten the bread. And after he had drunk that, he saddled the donkey for him, the prophet whom he had brought back when he was gone.

A lion met him in the road and killed him. And this corpse was thrown down on the road and the donkey stood by it. The Lion also stood. By the corpse and there men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road and the lion standing by the corpse.

Then they went and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. Now in the Prophet who had brought him back from the way heard it, he said it is the man of God who was disobedient to the Word of Yahweh. Therefore you always has delivered him to the lion, which is torn him and killed him.

According to the Word of Yahweh, which he spoke to him, and he spoke to his son saying saddle, the donkey for me. So they saddled it, Then he went and found his corpse thrown on the road and the donkey and the lion standing by the corpse. The lion had not eaten the corpse, nor torn the donkey, and the Prophet took up the corpse of the man of God, laid it on the donkey and brought it back.

So the old prophet came to the city to mourn to bury him. Then he laid the corpse in his own tomb and they mourned over him saying, Alas, my brother. So, it was after he had buried him that he spoke to his son. Saying, when I am dead, then bury me in the tomb.

Where the man of God is buried. Lay my bones beside his bones for the saying, which he cried out by the word of Yahweh against the altar in Bethel, and against all the shrines on the high places, which are in the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass so far.

This reading of God's inspired and an Aaron. Tort God's word is always true, and always powerful. Sometimes he gives us events in our life that underline, the truthfulness. And the power of his word, many things that proverbs warns against or instructs, You find in the course of your life.

For instance, that if you do what it warns against then, what it warns will happen happens. And that if you do what in instructs often, the Lord shows forth the reliability of his word by making the good thing that it promised to happen. There are many things that are true about our own hearts that he tells us and when the grief of seeing that come out of us when we have that grief, we also have an affirmation that God was telling us the truth.

When he told us what we were like Those are just two examples but there's so many different ways that the Bible speaks and so many things to which the Bible speaks and every time one of those things comes true and affirms that the word of God is true. Reliable powerful.

The biggest ways that the Word of God shows itself to be true. And powerful is when God uses it to give you faith in Jesus, that faith that comes by hearing the Word of God. And when God uses it to grow you in holiness, sanctify them by your truth.

Jesus prays in John 17, your word is truth and as he gives us all of these affirmations. The most important thing to remember, is the great thing that the Bible teaches us that Jesus is God, who came to save? Sinners. That he became a true man that he lived a righteous life in our place that he suffered the wrath of God, the complete portion of the wrath of God, for all of the sins for those for whom he was dying on the cross that he died and rose again.

The third day, on a count of having accomplished are justification and that he has ascended into heaven. That He is sitting right now and reigning ruling and all his enemies are being made of footstool for his feet. While his spirit whom he has poured out gathers, and builds up into him gathers and perfects those for whom he died by use even of his word.

And that he is returning again. And then, on the day of his return, the day of resurrection, all for whom, he had died, will have been brought to faith. All of them on the day of resurrection will be perfected in holiness. All of them. In the day of his resurrection will be themselves raised with glorious.

Resurrection bodies. So God shows the truth of his word in many instances along the way to show the big truth of his word. Now that's what happens here with the man of God from Judah. And it happens to him in a very sad way the the old prophet. Here's what the with the man of God has done and all that the man of God has said, and it doesn't tell us why he lied to him.

Perhaps if he's a true prophet and it does call him an old prophet. So we would read that not just in terms of his age, but also in terms of pre-jeroboam pre jeroboam's bowl and or calf and pre-Jeroboams priests from every tribe, but the Levites and pre-Jeroboams satellite congregations on every high place and pre-geroboams New Holiday on the 15th day of the eighth month, like the one that was in in Judah.

So this is an old prophet. And this, you know, one of the two great centers of Jerobones. New religion has been raised up So it may actually be. I think the best reading the best way to read the passages that this profit really just wanted to make a friend because as he was pretty alone as one of the ones who was from

before the gerbombs son of Niebat Revolution.

And yet he knew what the man of God had said he didn't value the Word of God. Highly enough, He did. Mmm, pretty Middle Eastern thing. You make up a white lie or you think it's a white lie? There's no such thing. That's one of the points of the passage, right?

Make up a white lie to get the person to come home with you and let you show him some hospitality.

The man of God should have known better, but God's Word proves true, doesn't it? The command that he had given and forbidding the man of God to come back and enter his house and eat bread and drink drink water. That commandment proved true and powerful. None of God's commandments are small to us and then the Word of God even on the mouth of the prophet who had lied in order to show hospitality.

He announces to him that because he's done that his corpse will not leave. And then you have this wonderful miraculous lion that just obeys that prophecy that has corpse won't get back to Judah is on his way to Judah. Maybe the the words that the the old prophet had said when they were eating and drinking ringing in his ears and the man of men of God is counting down the the distance for before he gets to Judah, wouldn't have been very far Bethel was at this southernmost tip of the northern kingdom and maybe he's thinking well the guy was lying about having heard the angel, maybe he was lying when he told me that my corpse wouldn't make it.

But miracle lion comes and miracle. Lion is not hungry or angry or as the kids now say to the mom's probably say it more hangry. We know he's not angry because he doesn't tear the donkey. We know he's not hungry because he doesn't eat the man. Is there for one reason to make a spectacle of the fact that everyone is under the Word of God?

And that the Word of God doesn't contradict itself and the Word of God cannot be broken. Remember what Paul says to the Galatians in chapter 1, if we or an angel of God, tells you another gospel. Let him be anathema. What God has said, cannot be broken. And so, when somebody says an angel told me Well, now we just say, nope, didn't These in these last days?

He has spoken by his son reference, Galatians chapter 1. If we or an angel of God I think it's anyone else or we or an angel of God, tell to you another gospel and the preposition there is different. It's a gospel alongside this one. So, it's not even now, completely separate in the in the context, but let him be an aphima means.

Let him be a curse. Let him go to hell.

God's Word, never contradicts itself. Someone tells you they have a new revelation, you can just dismiss it out of hand now, right? Because Jesus Hebrews 1:1 through three is the last great profit. When his apostles, his sent one limited to the number of 12 are done saying, the things that remain by the help of the Holy Spirit as promised in John 16.

That's it. That Word of Jesus that the Holy Spirit would tell his apostles of things, that remained that one came true. The Holy Spirit. Did that? The completed New Testament is it? And so you don't even have to worry about that. But one of the things by which you can always judge what you feel like doing or what someone else is trying to manipulate you to do, is by what the Word of God has said, even though a profit who would have sympathized with him against the Jeroboam worships at an angel of God, appeared to me and said bring him home so he can eat bread and drink water, the man of God from Judah, should have said no I don't know what it was or who it was.

That talked to you and said that. But this is what God has said to me, and I'm gonna obey God, if he wanted me to know any different. He would have told me, it's very important that we see that. But note at the end, the conclusion the old prophet comes to.

Yeah, it's interesting. He doesn't say anything about remorse, but as he grieves, and as he says alas, my brother wants to be buried with him. He concludes in verse 32 for the saying which he cried out by the word of Yahweh against the altar in Bethel, and against all the shrines on the high places, which are in the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass, you see how the demonstration of the perfect reliability and power of the Word of God in the incident with the hospitality and the lion was further confirmation In addition to the altar breaking apart and the ashes spilling out in last week's passage, This was another confirmation about the reliability of the word of God.

So also we should like I began with the in the application at the beginning saying so also we should take all of the times that the Word of God proves true. He said, he said that the seed of the woman, the seed of Abraham, the prophet like, Moses, the son of David.

The Christ, all the wonderful prophecies about the Lord, Jesus, and Isaiah, and Micah and and other places, he said he would come. And Jesus came, all of that underlines to us. The reliability, the power of the Word of God that it is true in everything that it says Praise God.

Amen. Let's pray. Lord help us to value your word. And to take from this passage and from other passages from the keeping of your promises throughout the centuries and the keeping of your promises and the reliability of your word, in our own life and our day-to-day life help us to draw from all of that, increased faith, grant that your spirit would keep reminding us and pressing upon us that your word is true, that your word is reliable.

That your word is powerful. We praise you. O, true and faithful and powerful. God, that you work in our lives by your word and we pray that you'd keep doing. So and confidence that you have said you would and therefore, we know you will even as we ask it in Jesus name, Amen.