

# Lessons from a Slain Prophet

Study of I Kings 13 – Prophet who rebuked Jeroboam

*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. 1 Kings 13:26*

## **Intro: Much Like Our Own Day...**

Apostasy was new – hearts not fully hardened

*“At the time of the feast at Bethel the hearts of the Israelites were not fully hardened. Many were susceptible to the influence of the Holy Spirit. The Lord designed that those who were taking rapid steps in apostasy should be checked in their course before it should be too late. He sent His messenger to interrupt the idolatrous proceedings and to reveal to king and people what the outworking of this apostasy would be.” {PK 102.4}*

## **I. The Withered Hand – I Kings 13:4-6**

A. God uses withered hands! Ps. 90:17

B. Fearful to war against God!

\*Hannaniah – Jer. 28 / Vengeance – Heb. 10:30

## **II. Lord, Have Mercy!**

### **A. Required mercy on the part of the prophet. (vs. 6)**

Matt. 5:43-45 (Pray for enemies) & Luke 23:34 (Forgive...)

### **B. Not the first display of mercy – Reproof**

Lev. 19:17 & 1 Tim. 5:20

Severity to a few will often prove mercy to many. Yet we must be careful to manifest the spirit of Christ, and not our own hasty, impetuous disposition. We must rebuke sin, because we love God, and love the souls for whom Christ died. {ST, January 24, 1884 par. 10}

If ever a people needed to walk before God as did Enoch, Seventh-day Adventists need to now, showing their sincerity by pure words, clean words, words full of sympathy, tenderness and love. But it is not to end here. There are times when words of reproof and sharp rebuke are called for. Those who are out of the right way need more than soft words to bring them back. {PH070 5.4}

### C. What about the prophet – that doesn't seem like mercy?

*“The penalty that overtook the unfaithful messenger was a still further evidence of the truth of the prophecy uttered over the altar. If, after disobeying the word of the Lord, the prophet had been permitted to go on in safety, the king would have used this fact in an attempt to vindicate his own disobedience. In the rent altar, in the palsied arm, and in the terrible fate of the one who dared disobey an express command of Jehovah, Jeroboam should have discerned the swift displeasure of an offended God, and these judgments should have warned him not to persist in wrongdoing.” {PK 107.1}*

### What About the impact upon the People?

#### III. Lessons from the Slain Prophet – I Kings 13:7-26

##### A. The Call to Compromise:

1. Call of the king (Compromise with the world)
2. Call of the False Prophet (Compromise in the Church) Matt. 7:21

##### B. Importance of the instructions – TRUTH!

1. John 14:6 – Jesus is the TRUTH.
2. John 16:13 - The Holy Spirit = spirit of TRUTH.

*“The Comforter is called “the Spirit of truth.”*

*His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul. It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself.” {DA 671.1}*

3. All the instructions? How about some examples:

##### C. His preaching was on target – his personal life was not!

1. When brought to the test he failed to adhere strictly to the details of the Divine instructions.
2. Do we hold others to a higher standard than ourselves?

##### D. He lost faith in the established word of God! He made flesh his arm - *Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. Jer. 17:5*

1. The time is coming when every earthly support will be cut off.

*“This lesson is for us to study carefully. We are in no case to swerve from our allegiance. No duties that*

*God presents before us should cause us to work at cross-purposes with him. The word of God is to be our counselor. It is only those who render perfect and thorough obedience to God that he will choose. Those who follow the Lord are to be firm and straightforward in obeying his directions. Any deviation to follow human devising or planning disqualifies them for being trustworthy. Even if they have to walk as did Enoch,--with God alone,--his children must separate from those who do not obey him, who show that they are not in vital connection with him. The Lord God is a host; and all who are in his service will realize the meaning of his words to Zerubbabel, "Not by might, nor by power, but by Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.""*

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