

MAN OF GOD CRIES OUT AGAINST ALTAR OF BETHEL (I Kings 13)

Parts: Narrator
Man of God
King Jeroboam
Old prophet
(Jeroboam's men, old prophet's sons, lion, donkey)

Narrator:

And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of Yehowah and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. Then he cried out against the altar by the word of Yehowah.

Man of God:

"O altar, altar! Thus says Yehowah:

'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.'

This is the sign which Yehowah has spoken:

'Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out.'

Narrator:

And it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar.

King Jeroboam:

"Arrest him!"

Narrator:

Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself. The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of Yehowah.

King Jeroboam:

“Please entreat the favor of Yehowah your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me.”

Narrator:

So the man of God entreated Yehowah, and the king’s hand was restored to him, and became as it was before.

King Jeroboam:

“Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward.”

Man of God:

“If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place. For so it was commanded me by the word of Yehowah, saying,

‘You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came.’”

Narrator:

So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel. 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 in Bethel; they also told their father the words which he had spoken to the king.

Old Prophet:

“Which way did he go? Saddle the donkey for me.”

Narrator:

So they saddled the donkey for him and he rode on it, and went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak.

Old Prophet:

“Are you the man of God who came from Judah?”

Man of God:

“I am.”

Old Prophet:

“Come home with me and eat bread.”

Man of God:

“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 Yehowah,

‘You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.’”

Old Prophet:

“I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of Yehowah, saying,

‘Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.’”

Narrator:

But he lied to him. So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water. Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of Yehowah came to the prophet who had brought him back; and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah.

Old Prophet:

“Thus says Yehowah:

‘Because you have disobeyed the word of Yehowah, and have not kept the commandment which Yehowah your God commanded you, but you came back, ate bread, and drank water in this place..., your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.’”

Narrator:

So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, the prophet whom he had brought back. So when he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it; the lion also stood by the corpse. Then they went and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

Old Prophet:

“It is the man of God who was disobedient to the word of Yehowah. Therefore Yehowah has delivered him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of Yehowah which He spoke to him.”

(To his sons)

“Saddle the donkey for me.”

Narrator:

And 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. And the old prophet came to the city to mourn, and to bury him. Then he laid the corpse in his own tomb; and they mourned over him.

Old Prophet and his sons:

“Alas, my brother!”

Narrator:

So it was, after he had buried him that he spoke to his sons.

Old Prophet:

“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 Yehowah 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.”

(The End)