

Title: The Word of God: Rejected, Abandoned, Abused, and Fulfilled

Scripture: 1 Kings 13

Series: The Eternal Kingdom

1. Introduction:

- a. The events of Chapter 12 flow right into Chapter 13, where we see how serious God's Word is and the consequences of not obeying it.
- b. Our story reminds us of God's holiness, the importance of His Word, and the need to stay faithful and discerning.
- c. Our sermon will focus on the four individuals mentioned in the passage and the lessons we can learn from each of them.

2. Verses 1-10, 33-34: First - Jeroboam: The Mercy of God's Word Rejected

- a. Our passage opens with God's divine Word shattering Jeroboam's false worship in Bethel. God, in His mercy, sent a prophet from Judah to confront the king's idolatry. This very act was a profound kindness—God did not leave Jeroboam in his sin without warning!
- b. Sadly, Jeroboam did not see it as a mercy, as an opportunity to repent.
 - i. Enraged by the boldness and message of the prophet, Jeroboam stretched out his hand and commanded the guards to seize him (verse 4). But in that very moment, God's judgment fell—his hand withered, frozen in place. The muscles and sinews contracted and locked. The king who sought to lay

his hands on God's messenger was held fast by God's hand.

1. The sovereign God was protecting His servant and displaying His authority over Jeroboam.
- c. The king understood! He was again meeting with the God of heaven, whom he had despised. Here was God, who gave him the kingdom, now condemning him for his wilful disobedience. Jeroboam knew that his made-up gods could not stop the true God.
 - i. So this wicked king is forced to plead for intercession (v. 6).
 1. He chose the lesser instead of the greater.
 - ii. God had already split the false altar in two showing that what the prophet had declared regarding the future of this false religion would come to pass. God's chosen king, Josiah, would one day come and destroy Jeroboam's idolatrous legacy once and for all.
 - iii. Yet God gave more than signs of judgment; He gave a sign of grace. At the prophet's prayer, Jeroboam's hand was restored (v. 6). This was God's kindness. It was an invitation to repent and return.
- d. However, Jeroboam refused God's mercy. Instead of heeding the warning, he simply repaired the altar and continued in his idolatry (vv. 33-34). He would not be corrected by God's word. He received the word of God as mercy—only to despise it.
- e. Many people today respond to God's warnings and kindness like Jeroboam did—with stubborn hearts that refuse to repent. God still speaks through His Word, faithful preaching, and even the trials of life, calling

sinner to turn back to Him. But instead of listening, many ignore His warnings and continue in their sin.

- i. Beloved, there is a truth that each of us must consider. We only harden our hearts further if we keep rejecting God's mercy. True wisdom humbles itself, submits to God's authority, and repents.

3. Verses 11-24: Second - The Man of God: The Safety of God's Word Abandoned

- a. The man of God from Judah is a mystery. He was fearless in his proclamation. Imagine the faith it would take to come from the South only to interrupt the king of Israel at this pagan worship ceremony. It was incredible faith. We see a man willing to risk it all to share God's Word with the unconverted.

- i. And yet, although he knew God's clear command—twice, he repeated it with conviction (vv. 8-9, 16-17), when the old prophet in Bethel claimed to have received a new revelation that contradicted God's Word (v. 18), he followed without question (v. 19). He did not protest. He did not debate. And He did not show discernment.
 1. That was his fatal error. He accepted a so-called "*new word from God*" over the sure word he had already received. That is always a recipe for disaster.

- ii. Brothers and sisters, faithfulness matters! We are not to accept spiritual authority without testing its words against the truth of Scripture.

1. **1 John 4:1** – Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are

from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

- b. Is there a more important warning for us today?
 - i. Many in so-called Christian churches claim, “The Lord told me...” or “Jesus appeared to me and said...”
 - ii. However, we are not supposed to believe these claims. Instead, we are supposed to cling to God's sure and written Word, delivered by the prophets and apostles.
 - iii. 1 Kings 13 makes it clear: God’s written Word is sufficient for us! It is never safe to receive any teaching that goes beyond or contradicts what He has already spoken.
 - iv. The death of this man of God stands as a warning—straying from God’s Word leads to spiritual ruin.
- c. The author also teaches that each of us is responsible for the revelation God has given to us. We must walk according to His Word and have discernment when it comes to false doctrine. We cannot blame others when we abandon what has been revealed.
 - i. **Ephesians 5:6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
 - ii. **Matthew 7:15-16** “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. (16) You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”

4. Verses 18-32: Third - The Old Prophet: The Profession of God's Word Abused

- a. Verse 18 clearly labels the old prophet a liar, false prophet, and deceiver. It clearly states, **“But He lied to Him.”**
 - i. **Deuteronomy 18:20** But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’
 - ii. So here we encounter such a man. A man who, according to God's Word, is worthy of death because he purposefully lied and spoke as if God had sent him.
 - iii. He comes to the prophet from Jerusalem and invites him home. The Prophet from Jerusalem declines the invitation because of God's command to leave the ungodly land without eating anything from it. This command of God spoke of the excommunication of Jeroboam and Israel. The Prophet from Jerusalem was to have no fellowship with what God had labeled anathema. We must remember that Jeroboam introduced this idolatry, but all of Israel accepted it. They were all guilty!
 1. **1 Corinthians 5:11** But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.
- b. Unfortunately, the prophet from Judah listened to the lying prophet. And as they ate together, God's true word of judgment came through the very mouth of the

deceiver. The prophet from Judah would die. Beloved, God can make the rocks speak.

- i. The judgment on the man of God was anything but normal. If the lion had simply attacked and eaten him—or even scared the donkey—people might have thought it was just nature taking its course. But this was different. The lion killed but did not eat. The donkey was left unharmed. This was clear proof that God Himself was bringing judgment. The lion was not acting on instinct but was under God's control, carrying out His divine discipline.
- c. And who handled the funeral? The same man who had deceived the prophet—the old liar from Bethel.
 - i. What are we to think of him? Scripture doesn't tell us his motives. It doesn't explain why he lied; in the end, it doesn't matter. He lied. He deceived. And his deception led a true servant of God to his death. The fact that God later spoke a true word of judgment through him (vv. 20-22) does not erase his guilt. Yes, the man of God from Judah should have been discerning, but that doesn't excuse the old prophet's deception. His lie had deadly consequences.
 - ii. Here we see a sobering truth: the old prophet spoke the Word of God, yet he also led a servant of God to destruction. He had truth—but no integrity. Right doctrine without a holy life. And Jesus warned us about men like this:
 1. **Matthew 7:21-23** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (22) On that day many

will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ (23) And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

- a. Beloved, many will stand before Christ, bragging about their ministries, only to be revealed as frauds. They spoke the truth, but their hearts were not right. The old prophet of Bethel was one of these men. He used God's Word—but did not love it.
- d. Here’s the troubling part: he seemed to get away with it all. He buried the man of God, mourned for him, and even said his own bones should be laid next to his when he died. No immediate judgment came upon him. And this frustrates us, doesn’t it? We want to see justice right away. We want the wicked to be punished before our eyes. But God’s justice doesn’t always work on our timetable. His judgment is sure, even if it’s delayed!
 - i. God is not blind to deception. He is not indifferent to false teachers and false brothers. The old prophet of Bethel may have avoided immediate judgment, but he did not escape God’s watchful eye. Delayed judgment is not the same as denied judgment.
 1. This lying prophet is in hell today, suffering the agony of his sin. He will never know relief or joy. He is forever condemned. Just because he lived and died without facing judgment on earth does not mean that God was fooled.

- a. **Romans 12:19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

5. Verse 2: Fourth - Josiah: God’s Word Fulfilled

- a. In our chapter, Josiah is mentioned, but he hasn’t been born yet—he would come 350 years later to fulfill the prophecy spoken in our passage. So, what can he teach us? Simply put, one of the most important truths every Christian must hold: God is sovereign!
- b. Beloved, look at our God. He promises to raise a king, a deliverer in the line of Christ, and He names him 350 years before he is even born. Josiah’s parents would eventually choose his name, but they had no idea God had already decreed it.
 - i. Beloved, here we find the doctrine of election once again. Here is God’s chosen vessel, chosen instrument, to do the work ordained by God. Our passage tells us that God decreed the very godly works that would come from Josiah’s life.
 1. **Ephesians 2:10** says, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
- c. And the amazing thing is, when Josiah is finally born 350 years later, he fulfills all of God’s will without knowing it. At that time, Scripture had been lost, and it wasn’t until after Josiah had already done all of what was decreed here that the last copy of Scripture was found. When he read it, he discovered that God had

called him long before he existed. God had loved him before there was a time. He was amazed—and we should be too!

- i. If we belong to God, He has called us from eternity past. He has named us and prepared the very works we should do. Can there be any greater truth to glorify God for?

6. Benediction:

- a. **Psalms 119:34** Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Pastoral Blessing: **Numbers 6:24-26** The LORD bless you and keep you; (25) the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; (26) the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Public Reading of Scripture
Psalm 119:33-40

Question for consideration:

- How do I respond to God’s Word—do I receive it with humility and obedience, or do I reject it like Jeroboam, refusing to repent when confronted with my sin?
- Am I discerning in what I accept as spiritual truth, testing all teachings against Scripture, or am I easily swayed by those who claim new revelations, like the man of God who abandoned God’s clear command?
- Do I trust in God’s sovereignty, knowing He has ordained my steps and works before time, as He did with Josiah, and am I walking in faithful obedience to His will?