Lesson 2: Jeroboam & the Man of God

Readings – 1 Kings 13, 2 Kings 23:15-20

Why?
Did God send a Prophet to tell Jeroboam what would happen to his altar?

In this lesson we learn about a man of God who is sent to prophecy the fate of the altar upon which Jeroboam was about to sacrifice as part of a false religion to keep the people from traveling down to Jerusalem. Also in this lesson told how the man of God listened to the Old Prophet who lied to him which resulted in his death.

A Lesson on Why we have a Prophet of God dealing with Kings & People

This strong confrontation between King Jeroboam and the prophet commanded to speak the Lord’s message will be played out again and again as we make our way through the Kings of the Divided Kingdom. Also in this chapter the prophet message gives us an example of prophecy that will happen over time.

In Lesson 1 reference was made to Deut 18 and in 1 Kings 13 that description is meet by the Man of God

Deuteronomy 18:18-22 (ESV)

18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

How many times is the Lord commanding in 1 Kings 13?

19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. 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.’ 21 And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the Lord has not spoken?’

— 22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.
1 Kings 13 A Prophet Denounces Jeroboam
What did the Lord command to be said to Jeroboam and the people (2-3)?

What happened to the altar after the prophecy (5)?

What could the man of God not do with regard to travel and eating (8-10)?

1 Kings 13 A Prophet Denounces Jeroboam
What was Jeroboam doing when the prophet came to Bethel (1)?

What was Jeroboam's reaction to the prophecy (4)?

What happened to Jeroboam's hand & arm (4)?

What did Jeroboam ask to be restored (6)?

Where did Jeroboam ask the prophet to go (7)?

Did Jeroboam turn from his evil ways (33)?

What was the result for Jeroboam's dynasty (34)?

What happened to Saul's dynasty when he made a sacrifice (1 Sam 13:13-14)?

2 Kings 23:15-20 Josiah's Reforms
What did Josiah do to the altar at Bethel (15)?

What did Josiah have done to the bones in the tombs close to the altar (16)?

What did Josiah have done to the tomb of the man of God (16-18)?

Look in the reference listing of when the kings of Judah and Israel ruled, about how many years separate when the prophecy was made and when Josiah ruled?
Use the Rate of Travel in the Reference Chart to estimate how long it would take the man of God to walk from Jerusalem to Bethel.

How much faster was the donkey used by the old prophet?
The history of the divided kingdom has been divided into time periods of different oppressors. Circle the prophets in this lesson & mark the decades of their activities & the kings using the timelines in the reference section/back cover.

**ISRAEL – 10th Century**
- Ahijah
- Man of God
- Jehu
- 1000
- 950
- 900

**SYRIA – 9th Century**
- Elijah
- Obadiah
- Elisha
- Joel
- 900
- 850
- 800

**ASSYRIA – 8th Century**
- Jonah
- Micah
- Amos
- Isaiah
- 800
- 750
- 700

**BABYLON – 7th Century**
- Zephaniah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Jeremiah
- 700
- 650
- 600

**BABYLON EXILE – 6th Century**
- Jeremiah - Judah
- Daniel - rulers in Babylon
- Ezekiel - captives in Babylon
- 600
- 550
- 500

**PERSIAN RETURN 6/5th Century**
- Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- 600
- 550
- 500
- 450
- 400

**APPLICATION?**
Have you done something due to someone lying to you? How did you find out that you had been lied too?

Jeroboam saw a miracle when his hand & arm was withered but did not correct his ways. Do you think you would change your behaviors is you saw this event happen?

The man of God provides signs in front of Jeroboam to show he was from the Lord and makes a set of prophecies of what will happen to the altar at Bethel. See reference for more info on chart.

**Messianic Prophecy**

1. Josiah will burn bones of false priest
2. Altar will be split
3. Ashes be poured onto ground

In what time range did the following come true?

Immediate or days
Within lifetime
Great span of time
Great time span & offer hope of a better day