

The Man of God From Judah (Fighting the Age of Apostasy in 2020)

1 Kings 13:1 AMPC

[1] And behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the Lord to Bethel. Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

The man of God confronted King Jeroboam in a time of great Apostasy in Israel. Jeroboam sought to create a compromising lifestyle for Israel by a) allowing more convenient places they could go and worship, b) substituting golden calves for the Ark of the covenant, c) substituting real Aaronic priest for anyone he felt to use in the temple work. Jeroboam was an opportunist at best.

The Man of God pronounced judgement on Jeroboam. The altar was set on fire by God in Jeroboam's church-vs 5. Jeroboam's hand withered up-vs 4. The man of God upon request of Jeroboam, restored his hand- vs. 6-8. The man of God refused to go home with Jeroboam or accept his gifts for his servicing stating God told him not to do so- vs. 7-9. Perhaps God did not want this man of God to be contaminated or compromised by the spirit of Apostasy and told him not to deviate his course of action. I believe we are living in this time period of Apostasy. Where the spirit of seduction leads to deception for compromising our values.

The Spirit of Apostasy is:

1. An attitude that disregards organized spiritual authority.
2. An attitude that justifies speaking out publicly against authority to fit the values and views of the one who is being critical.
3. Is an attitude that says I have a better way of doing things that fits the convenience of my lifestyles.
4. This is an attitude that has little to no fear of God
5. It's an attitude that wants the spiritual things of God but at a cheap discounted compromise.
6. Its roots are in selfishness and pride.

The Man of God deviated his course:

1. He was found under an oak tree by the old prophet-vs 14
2. He was found idle
3. He should not have stopped to sit under this oak tree
4. Or perhaps he felt his mission was over and he was burnt out from ministry
5. Or perhaps he was basking in his tremendous results he got being used of God
6. he was not found in a thriving posture but one that was vulnerable to the spirit of seduction and compromise as was David with Bathsheba

The old prophet seduces the man of God

1. he lies to him saying I am a prophet like you are-vs. 18
2. The man of God was never called a prophet
3. The old prophet may have been jealous over the man of God's ministry

4. The old prophet and his sons never rebuked Jeroboam for the compromised ministry they witnessed.

It is very dangerous for us to become comfortable with the spirit of compromise. So old prophet and his sons were living in compromise to some degree. The old prophet longed for hearing the raw voice of a true prophet but at the expense of lying to this young man of God. He probably picked his brain for what God was doing back in Judah. He probably enjoyed basking in the stories of God but in a selfish way. Knowing he himself would never live in obedience himself. The spirit of apostasy desires truth, wants truth but selfishly chooses not to live it because the price is more than they are willing to pay. This leads to deception. The old prophet finds it easy to operate in spiritual giftings with a lying spirit. He has no convictions about honoring the man of God's convictions. He lost the fear of God for himself. By the time the man of God realizes he made a serious bad choice to come to this prophets home he now knows he was deceived and there is nothing he can do about it. The old prophet now wants to be associated with this man's ministries by giving him a donkey and wanting his bones to be buried next to the man of Gods bones. This is a sobering story and reminder to us to confront viciously and violently the spirit of compromise and apostasy. It cannot be played with.

How can I fight the Spirit of Apostasy in 2020

1. Ask God to renew the fear of the Lord in your life
2. Renew your commitment to spiritual authority in your life
3. Keep a fasting schedule regularly in your life
4. Keep a daily prayer life at all cost in your life
5. Keep a repenting attitude towards your spouse, your leadership and the saints continually. Never justify holding onto bitterness or unforgiveness towards someone for long periods of time.
6. Guard and be proactive with your holiness living and standards like there is no tomorrow.
7. Obey your convictions of the word no matter what anyone tells you
8. Seek affirmation of your self esteem first from God before anyone else.
9. Do not use the success and reputation of the ministry to identify your self worth
10. Love truth more than the conveniences and blessing truth gives you. (Even at the expense of losing creature comforts and inconvenience your life. Whereby money has more of an influence over your decision making than obedience to God's Word).
11. Choose who you open your spirit up for speaking into it very cautiously. This is no small thing.
12. Keep a tender heart of humility towards the kingdom business of God. Loving the harvest of soul winning as a top priority.

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