

JEROBOAM AND THE MAN OF God

1 Kings 12 – 14

Lesson Memory Verse: Proverbs 16:25 "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Lesson Aim: Man's ways seem good, but they bring death; so choose God's ways and live.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Bring a small, sealed bottle of turpentine into the class. Have students guess what it is (water, 7-Up, ginger-ale, etc. Then let the students smell it and see if they know what it is.) Although the liquid looks like water, etc., it is really turpentine, and it would make you very sick if you drank it. What looks good to us, may be poison to us.

HE: (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us that there is a way of living that looks like a lot of fun, but God warns us that it is dangerous because it ends up in Hell. The only way to live your life is by God's way as He shows us in the Bible. (Have children find Proverbs 16:25 in their Bibles. Also have it printed on the whiteboard, where you can explain the words that they do not understand.) We may think that God's way is old and out-of-date, so we decide to live our lives the way our unsaved friends live their lives. Their way of living is more popular and up-to-date. We may think it is better to play with our friends on Sunday morning and not go to church. We may look at bad movies on TV or on the internet and no longer read and memorize the Bible. We may begin to use bad words, even use Jesus' name in cursing people, so we talk like our friends. We may take some drugs or smoke some cigarettes to look cool and not keep our bodies pure. But God says this way is bad. This way will cause us many troubles and it goes straight to Hell. Hell is where sinners will be separated forever from God and all the good things that He has prepared for them that love Him. **Words and phrases to explain in the verse:**

"Way" – a way of living one's life

"Seems" – appears, looks like

"End thereof" – the result of living the wrong way

"Death" – 2 meanings: (1) we are separated from the body; or, (2) we are separated from God in Hell

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

In our Bible lesson for today, we will learn about two men, a king and a prophet. Each man made a choice that they thought was right, but it turned out to be wrong because they did not listen to God. When we refuse to obey God, we will always do wrong. (The outline for this lesson is only for helping the teacher to remember the important parts of the story. Do not try to teach the outline to the children. Tell the lesson as a story to the children.)

I. Denunciation by the Man of God (1 Kings 12:16 – 13:6; 14:1-18)

First, we will see how King Jeroboam got into great trouble when he forgot God's ways and did things his own way. (Begin the story with King Jeroboam ready to worship his idol, the golden calf, at Bethel.) Just as the king was ready to burn incense at the altar, suddenly a man of God from Judah cried out against the altar. When the prophet did this he was speaking against the idol worship that Jeroboam had started (cf. 12:16-33). The man of God said that Josiah, a king of Judah, would burn on that altar, the priests that worshipped idols. To prove that he had spoken the truth he said the altar would be broken and the ashes on it would fall out of it. And it happened!

Jeroboam was angry. So he took his hand off of the altar and pointed it at the man of God saying, "Lay hold on him." But when he did, his hand suddenly lost its power and he could not use it. Now Jeroboam was afraid and he pleaded with the man of God to pray for his hand to be healed. When the man of God prayed for him, it was healed right away.

Jeroboam should have believed the message of the man of God. If he had, he would have broken down his altar at Bethel and destroyed his idols and golden calf. Then he would have removed his wicked priests that worshipped idols. But Jeroboam found it too hard to believe God enough to obey Him. So he kept on worshipping his own way, even though it was the wrong way. That was foolish because it brought death to him and to his family. Abijah, his son, got sick and died, and the rest of his sons were killed (14:1-18). He and his family went to Hell, because they did not turn back to God's way. What a

terrible thing to happen, but Jeroboam had been warned by the man of God. He decided his ways were better than God's, but he was wrong. Now he knows how wrong he was.

WE: We must listen to the warnings that God's preachers tell us from the Bible, so we do not stay on the way that goes to Hell. It is too late for Jeroboam to change his way in order to get out of Hell, but it is not too late for you to change your ways. You may have thought that you could sin and nothing bad would happen. Maybe you thought that skipping church and Sunday school was clever; that disobeying your parents was smart; that buying things for yourself with God's money would not be noticed; but you were wrong. If you are practicing sin, it is the wrong way and it will lead to your death. Change your ways now or you will be like Jeroboam and will go to the same Hell where he is suffering right now.

II. The Disobedience of the Man of God (1 Kings 13:7-19)

Now we will see how a prophet of God got into trouble when he forgot God's way and did things in his own way. When the man of God prayed for Jeroboam's hand to be healed and God healed it, he was invited by the king to go to his palace and eat with him and then be rewarded. This sounded good, but the prophet remembered that God had told him not to eat or drink anything in that place, and that he was not to go back to Judah by the same road that he used to go to Bethel. This may have sounded strange, but that was God's way of doing things and the prophet obeyed God. He refused to eat with the king or receive any reward from him. He also obeyed by taking a different road home to Judah.

All went well until an old prophet, who lived in Bethel, decided that he wanted to meet this wonderful man of God. His sons had seen which road the man of God had taken and so he got on his donkey and followed after him until he found him resting under an oak tree. When the old prophet found him, he invited him to his house for a meal. The man of God refused once more and told the old prophet that God had said that he could not eat in Bethel. Then the old prophet lied to him and said that an angel had appeared to him and told him to get the man of God and bring him back for a meal. So the man of God decided it was all right and he went back to Bethel to the old prophet's house for a meal. But it was not all right. He had been tricked into disobeying God by someone he thought was a friend.

WE: We must listen to God and not our friends. Sometimes our friends will tell us to do the wrong things. Do not listen to them when they tell you it is all right to tell little lies when you get into trouble. Do not listen to them when they tell you it is all right to say a few dirty words, or to cheat on tests. Friends will get us into trouble if we listen to them and disobey God. We need friends who will help us to obey God's rules, not disobey them. Beware of friends who tell you to disobey God.

III. The Death of the Man of God (1 Kings 13:20-32)

While the man of God and the old prophet were eating, the old prophet received a message from God. He said that the man of God had disobeyed God's Word; therefore, he would be punished. He would die before he could return to Judah and he would not be buried in Judah. What a shock that must have been! After lunch, the man of God started his trip back to Judah, but on the road home, a lion jumped on him and killed him. The man of God was killed, because he failed to obey all that God commanded him. There is no doubt that the man of God is in heaven but he died early in his life because he disobeyed God. News of his death got back to the old prophet who found his body and buried it in his own grave.

WE: We have God's commands that we are to obey in the Bible. We can know exactly what God wants us to do. Will you obey Him as you learn what He wants you to do? Sometimes our "friends" will tell us to go somewhere that is good, but it is not where God told you to go. He may tell you to be a missionary and go to some foreign country. Do not listen to your friends or your parents, if they disagree with God. If you do you will get into trouble like the man of God who listened to the old prophet.

BE (for Action): We need to obey God. It is the way that leads to life. How did the man of God obey God? What happened to him? How did he disobey God? Then what happened to him? Obey what God tells you to do. He will speak to you by the Bible, if you want to know what He wants you to do. How did the king disobey God? What happened to him? If Are you like Jeroboam and have not yet been saved? Have you thought that your way was all right, but now you see that it is the wrong way? Do you want to be saved God's way? (Give students, who need to be saved, an opportunity to show their decision by asking them to raise their hands. Help those children receive Christ after you dismiss the class)