

I TOO AM A PROPHET

Text: 1 Kings 13:18

INTRO: A prophet, when the word is correctly used is a person who speaks for God, making known what could not be known without the gift of prophecy.

Of course, in O.T. times, there were false (pseudo) prophets as well as real prophets.

Even today there are those who claim that God speaks directly to them & gives them special revelations.

I. THE BACKGROUND OF THE LESSON, chap. 12.

A. This incident takes place about the time of the dividing of the kingdom of Israel into 2 nations, Judah & Israel.

B. Jeroboam, king of Israel had set up altars in Dan & Bethel, had appointed men who were not Levites to serve as priests, & had set up feasts of his own devisings.

1 Kings 12:28, Therefore the king asked advice, made 2 calves of gold, & said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!"

II. THE PROPHET FROM JUDAH. "Young"?

A. He was on a Divine mission, 13:1.

- B. He had an inspired message, vs. 2
- C. There was miraculous confirmation of his message, vs. 3-5.
- D. King Jeroboam was humbled, but did not really repent, vs. 6-7, 33-34.
- E. The prophet from Judah was obedient to God's instructions, vs. 7-10.

III. THE OLD PROPHET.

- A. An old prophet finds out about the Judean prophet & his message, vs. 11-14.
- B. The old prophet had been informed about the Judean prophet's mission, & tempted him to violate God's instructions, vs. 11, 15-17.
- C. Finally, the old prophet deceived the prophet from Judah by claiming a "later day revelation," vs. 18-19.
- D. The old prophet really does receive a revelation from God, vs. 20-24.
- E. The old prophet is remorseful at the consequences of his deeds, vs. 29-32.

IV. SOME PUZZLING THOUGHTS. Why did the old prophet lie to the prophet from Judah? Envy? Selfishness? Self-deception? Curiosity? No matter what his motive, his deed was wrong.

V. SOME PRACTICAL LESSONS.

- A. The prophet from Judah knew God had spoken to him & given him signs of confirmation as absolute proof.
- B. He knew the old prophet's words contradicted God's revelation. Why did he believe the old prophet? Because he wanted to.
- C. The prophet from Judah should have known that the old prophet was a false prophet or else he too would have been crying out against the altar at Bethel & the worship of a golden calf.
- D. Primary lessons:
 - 1. We must learn to love the truth.

2 Thess 2:10-12, [Paul writes of] those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- 2. Act upon the message you know is from God, revealed & confirmed, "thus saith the Lord."
- 3. Do not believe every preacher or so-called prophet. Put them to the test.

- a. False predictions.

Deut 18:21-22, And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

b. False Doctrines.

Deut 13:1-5, If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, & the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'--which you have not known--' & let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart & with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD

your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, & you shall serve Him & hold fast to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt & redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.

Isa 8:19-20, And when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums & wizards, who whisper and mutter," should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law & to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

La Porte, TX, June 2, 1984

Exton, PA, September 9, 1984

Exton, PA, April 7, 1991

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 14, 2005

