

## LESSONS LEARNED TOO LATE

Text: 1 Kings 13:1-25

INTRO: This chapter tells the story of a “man of God” whose name is not revealed. He was man of great courage & devotion, but as the story unfolds, that “man of God” became deceived & defeated. Perhaps we can learn in a timely manner the lessons he learned too late.

I. GOD DOES NOT INDULTE IN SELF-CONTRADICTION.

A. Somehow, he was able to allow himself to believe that a new “revelation” had come from God which contradicted what God had clearly made known to him.

2 Thess. 2:11.

B. Hunger, perhaps? Like Esau?

II. RELIGIOUS LEADERS DO NOT ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH.

A. The “old prophet: claimed a more recent “revelation.”

B. But “He lied.” Joseph Smith, Mohammed.

III. SINCERITY IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR TRUTH.

A. There is no room to doubt the Judean prophet’s sincerity.

B. But in his sincerity, he sinned & he died. Saul of Tarsus.

IV. YESTERDAY’S OBEDIENCE WILL NOT SUFFICE FOR TODAY’S SITUATION.

Ezek 18:24, 26, "But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness & commits iniquity, & does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die... When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies.

V. PARTIAL OBEDIENCE IS NOT REAL OBEDIENCE.

James 2:10-11; 1 Sam. 15:20ff.

CONCLUSION: Likely there are several other lessons to be learned from this chapter, but all of these mentioned are lessons that many people in our society today need to learn. The Judean prophet learned them too late. We can learn from his experience. If we do not, we will likely learn them the “hard way” as he did.

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 13, 2002