



What is God's point in the strangeness of this event and this account of it? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. 1Kings 13:1–10 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these ten verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that even when it looks like men are reigning powerfully in their sin, Yahweh's Word is reigning in His almighty power and perfect righteousness. So, let us have confidence in Yahweh to stand with Him before men, and commitment unto Yahweh to obey Him in the everyday choices of our life.

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 ▫ Read 1Kings 13:1–10

Questions from the Scripture text: Who went from where to where in v1? Why? What/whom did he find there? What did the man of God do against what (v2)? Why? Against what did he cry? Who would be born to whom? And what would this baby grow up to do? What sign did he announce to confirm this (v3)? Who heard this (v4)? What did he do and say? But what happened to his hand? What happened at this point (v5)? But what was it that the king asked would be repealed (v6)? What did the man of God do? With what result? Now what invitation did the king make (v7)? How did the man answer (v8)? Why (v9)? So, what did he do instead (v10)?

Jeroboam had invented new worship in new places led by new priests on new holidays. Now, God announces a great sacrifice of His own: Jeroboam's priests on Jeroboam's altar (v2). And He chooses the moment when Jeroboam is busy in his new worship to announce it (v1). But the "sacred" ashes of that sacrifice would be unceremoniously spilled onto ground (v3).

Just looking at the language of the passage reveals an emphasis: **the Word of Yahweh**. Jeroboam had acted like a servant of the pagan idols who cannot command how to be worshiped, because they cannot speak at all. Now, the Spirit brings Yahweh's Word front and center. Reference to it makes up a pretty big chunk of this small passage:

"by the Word of Yahweh" (v1)

"by the Word of Yahweh" (v2)

"Thus says Yahweh" (v2)

"Yahweh has spoken" (v3)

"by the Word of Yahweh" (v6)

"by the Word of Yahweh" (v9)

Indeed, one of the main features of the rest of 1Kings and 2Kings will be a building competition between the kings of Israel and the Word of Yahweh, especially as embodied in Yahweh's prophets. And here comes just such a prophet! In fact, he's not even called a prophet here. Rather, he is called "a man of God" *seven times* in this passage. He is God's man in this incident.

And one, with God, is always in the majority. We don't even know the name of the man, but he easily prevails in his confrontation with the king. Jeroboam discovers what he's up against when he stretches out his hand in v4. Suddenly, "arrest him!" turns into "pray for me." Not only does Jeroboam feel the powerlessness of not even being able to move his own hand, but the position in which he was frozen condemned him. Crrraaack! The altar splits in two as the backdrop (v5) to the paralyzed king. God's sign against Jeroboam's worship comes to pass. And the king can't pretend to be anything than the enemy of God and God's man that he is. He's literally frozen with his hand extended in rebellion and attack.

Friendship with the world is enmity with God. Jeroboam's opinion of the man of God changes abruptly in v7. His prophesying had been offensive, but his praying was useful. The man of God had entreated Yahweh (v6), and the king had been healed. This is the kind of man you want to have around (v7a) and keep on the payroll (v7b). But the prophet knows better than to put himself on the wrong side of that "one with God is a majority" reality. He refuses both riches and refreshments (v8). The king might not care much to follow God's Word, but the man of God (so far) knows better than that (v9–10). It can be tempting when those who hate God make some display of liking us. "What an evangelistic opportunity!" we tell ourselves. But we mustn't have them as our companions or ever entertain for a moment the idea that we may do evil that good may come.

We have the Word of God. There are many with their own ideas. Even in the church, they act as if God has not spoken, inventing their own ways of worship. But one with God is, still, always in the majority. Praise be to God for such mercy that allows the godly to intercede as the man did for Jeroboam. But, let not intercession become concession or companionship, lest we find ourselves operating as enemies of God (more on that in vv11–34).

What difference does it make in your life that we have a "speaking" God? What time do you give His Word? What attitude in those times? What are some things that must be determined only by God's Word? In what ways are you tempted to determine them for yourself?

Sample prayer: Lord, You are the one, true and living God. And You have spoken to us in the Scriptures. We praise You that by Your word, the worlds came to be; and, by Your Word, it is upheld; and, by Your Word, it is reserved for fire. Truly, Your word is mighty! Forgive us for when we take for ourselves prerogatives that belong to You and Your Word alone. And forgive us for when we fear those who oppose You and Your Word. Instead, make us faithful and courageous to stick with You even when the whole world and whole church are making their own way instead—all of which we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP1 "How Blessed the Man" or TPH173 "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

First Kings 13, verses 1 through 10. These are God's words and behold a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of Yahweh and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. And he cried out against the altar by the word of Yahweh and said oh alter altar Thus says Yahweh behold.

A child just Siah by name shall be born to the house of David and on you, he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you and men's bones shall be burned on you, and he gave a sign. The same day saying this is the sign which Yahweh has spoken.

Surely, the altar shall split apart and the ashes on. It shall be poured out.

So it came to pass, when Jeroboam the king heard the saying of the man of God who cried against cried out against his altar. In Bethel that she stretched out his hand. From the altar saying arrest him, Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself.

The altar was also split apart when the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of Yahweh, Then the king answered and said to the man of God, please and treat the favor of Yahwe your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored to me.

So the man of God entreated, Yahweh and the king's hand was restored to him and became as before. Then the king said to the man of God come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward, but the man of God said to the king.

If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with, you know, what? I eat bread. Nor drink water in this place for. So it was commanded me by the word of Yahweh. Saying You shall not eat bread. Nor drink water nor return by the same way you came.

So he went another way and did not return. By the way, he came to Bethel so far the reading of God's word

One of the things that we are going to see building over the

Over the next book and a half, or so. The rest of first Kings, and all of Second Kings, is a side-by-side comparison? Or competition, even between the prophets of God, who announced the word of God, and the judgment of God, and the kings of Israel. And in many respects Judah which has the greater power of the greater authority, the lasting control The Word of God in humble, chaste persecuted.

Men or the authority of the throne with all of the wealth and influence and individuals under its command. You know, the answer to that because you know, God, you also know the answer to that because in his Providence, we just had Psalm 49 yesterday and the illusion of the lasting effect of political power military might.

And especially of wealth and influence. But we have the first installment of that competition. Now, Jeroboam of course, is at the altar that he made with the priests that he ordained for the sacrifice that he has instituted. All supposedly in the name of Yahweh and God sends a prophet and he doesn't even give us his name, He doesn't even call him a prophet.

He'll call the guy who deceives him later in the chapter Lord helping us next week, a prophet but he calls him. The man of God, which is a condemnation upon Jeroboam because Jeroboam was invited to be a man after God's own heart, the way. David was a man after God's own heart and the Lord told him that if he follows him like David had done, he would establish his family forever.

Like he had done for David but Jeroboam was now the man against God and God sends a humble prophet to be the man of God Jeroboam had set up his own sacrifices. And the man of God says, in the passage before us that the priests of the high places who burn incense on this altar, the high places that Jarabones set up and the incense that gerbaum appointed on this altar, that Joe bone built and the priests that Jeroboam ordained, that they would be sacrificed on the altar, and men's bones would be burned on it.

So God would both have his own sacrifice. You remember later when Jehu says, I have a great sacrifice for Baal and they come and they burn all of the priests of bail together. That's not this. But God has his competing sacrifice with with Gerald Bowen to show. That God is the one who has the power and God is the one who may authorize sacrifices, God alone.

And even the way that it would happen, would desecrate Jeroboams alter because men's bones would make it unclean as they would be the part dead body parts would touch it and make it ceremonially unclean. It was already a filthy thing in the eyes of God and he would demonstrate before the eyes of man.

How filthy that thing it was and the man of God, rather than just waiting for Josiah to be born and to accomplish what was profit to fulfill? What was prophesied by him in this passage, he gives a sign. He doesn't say when the sign will happen, but it happens.

Almost immediately that God would show the uselessness of what man had done. No doubt Jeroboams altar was forged by men, not like the simple altars that were originally commanded by God. And, and then the altar of Solomon being commanded by God, although not being the kind that no tool would touch.

But Jeroboam's altar was probably designed to be impressive. He had created worship that men would love for themselves rather than loving God in it and loving it for God. And the man of God says and by the way, this altar that you've built is going to break. And all of these consecrated ashes of incense and sacrifices are going to spill out on the ground.

And so you have this great competition between the king and the Word, there's actually not that great to competition because even the passage itself, was the Holy Spirit carries along the writer tells us what is controlling every part that controls. How the man of God goes it controls what, what everyone is doing?

And so you have verse 1 by the word of Yahweh and then again verse 2 by the word of Yahweh. And then again, a second time in verse 2, thus says Yahweh, and then verse 3, Yahweh has spoken and then verse 6 by the word of Yahweh. And then verse 9 by the word of Yahweh, someone else does speak other than Yahweh and his man and that someone else is Jeroboam and he says arrest him, Jeroboam seeks by the power that he has to silence this mouth of God, that is in front of him speaking.

And yet her poem can't finish the command. Because as everyone is looking to him with his hand stretched out, his hand can't move. How does he expect to

maintain his rule and authority and dominate others? When he doesn't even rule over his own arm, except by the mercy of God by God alone, He could extend his hand by God alone.

He could withdraw his hand and when God makes His power to extend and withdraw his arm to wither. His arm is stuck and so, he's humiliated in his weakness. He's also therefore humiliated in his wickedness because what was his arm stuck doing? He became a statue, a monument to his own sin, as what happened behind him, the altar that he had designed cracked at that moment.

So the man of God had said, this will be a sign of all these things. The altar will crack. The ashes will spill out. He doesn't say when it will happen. But it happens at the time that the king is frozen, like a statue, the memorial, or the monument to the sin of Jeroboam son of Nebat who caused Israel to sin and behind him in the backdrop.

What the man of God says actually happens. And yet, although there's this competition between man's authority and God's authority, and this display of how everything goes by the word of Yahweh. And then the display that the Word of Yahweh always wins. Even if it's one man against a king and his army, the one man is in the majority of the one man has the winning position and yet, even when you recognize that you might make the response, the wrong response and say, oh what I really need to do is be hospitable to the man, who speaks the Word of God.

Now we know that that's true that we should honor God's servants. You remember Exodus 19 verse 9 and God, explaining why he was going to announce the Ten Commandments in the way he did from the thundering shaking. Fiery smoking mountain was so that the people would honor his servant Moses, but it was so that they would honor his servant Moses and believe God's Word on his lips.

What good does it do to ought to invite for Jeroboam to invite the man of God to his house, when he's not going to obey the Word of God? When he's not gonna repent of his sin, it's like the people who shake the pastor's hand, on the way out of worship and tell him how wonderful the sermon was.

And yet those points that clearly exposed where we are thinking and practicing wrongly against God and provoking him, we don't lift a finger to make any change and God who, of course, knew what would happen. Protects the man of God from being sucked into this because he's given the man of God, command, to not eat bread or drink water with anyone in Israel.

But turn around. And this isn't a hard command from God, Bethel was at the very south of the northern kingdom, but he was to turn around and go. By another way home, make it hard for him to follow rather we'll we'll find out what happens with that again, Lord willing next week and maybe you will be interested enough by these teasers for the second, half of the chapter, that you'll read the rest of first Kings 13 for yourself or deliciously.

Remember it from the last time you read it. God had told the man of God you don't eat bread. You drink, don't drink water, you turn around and you leave because just pretending or thinking that you genuinely are to receive God's Word. Well, and happily and entertain it.

Like, he says he will like Jeroboam says he will to the man of God. That is not the ultimate purpose of receiving the Word of God. It is so that we would receive God Himself. So that we would repent under his word. And so, in the last place, we see that, even those who preach God's word, even those who tell God's word are under God's word, the men of God was under the commands of the Lord and sadly, although he makes a good start by taking the wrong way home.

We're going to find out that he too makes a deadly departure from the word of the Lord and something that seems like a small and reasonable thing. And so it's not just wealthy powerful kings like Jeroboam who are susceptible to be deceived by our hearts to give lip service to the Word of God.

And then not genuinely repent, but every one of us, even the lowly, even those who generally speaking are servants of God are susceptible to being deceived by our hearts. And so we must seek from God that he not only help us be convinced that his word is right and that he rules, but that we not only be convinced of those things, but that his spirit would keep reminding us.

Especially in those moments where we have all of those little decisions and life to make

So we make some of the same applications as yesterday. In Psalm 49 do not be afraid of those who seem powerful and wealthy, when they resist the Lord and even when they attack you, they cannot extend their arms or open their mouths to do, or to say, anything against you.

Unless God, providentially sustains them and what they do against him, God remembers like a memorial. And he will punish only you trust in the Lord delight, in the honor of his name and seek that the service of God in this world that you desire would start with your own obedience with your own repentance, even as you look for and pray for and urge upon others, repentance and faith.

In Jesus Christ. I'm endless. Pray. We thank you Lord for the power of your word and for the certainty that you will vindicate. Your name and that in this competition between nations and that are raging with kings and peoples who are plotting in vain that you sit in heaven and you laugh and that you have already given it all to our Lord.

Jesus Christ who sits at your right hand until his enemies are made a footstool for his feet and that the king's of the earth will be subdued under us who belong to him, that even if we die yet. So we live and after our flesh sees corruption yet even then our eyes will see you and we will praise you and we will reign forever and ever.

But oh God, we pray that you'd help us for right now, in our ongoing, sanctification, and our remaining sin. We have a hard time even raining over our own members that we would be able to offer you our hands and our feet, our minds, our hearts, our lips, our time, our desires, our delights that we would be able to offer to you all that we are as slaves for righteousness and it feels like sin reins over us, forgive us.

So God for being so unbelieving and forgetting that we have been delivered with Christ and his death and raised with Christ and His life so that sin wouldn't reign over us. But grace, would reign over us so that we could repent. Even in the small everyday continual decisions of life, but since we are so weak, we pray that your spirit would help us and that we would remember the authority and throne of Jesus and the Almighty power of your word and how it is, you who give us the ability to extend or retract.

Our hands help us. So God, we pray in Jesus name. Amen.