

THE SPIRIT OF JERABOAM

²⁹ *“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’ ... ³¹ “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”*

Luke 16:29,31

³⁷ *Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.*

John 12:37

I. Don't confuse me with the facts; I've already made up my mind.

A. Jeroboam I, 922-901 BC, was the first king of Israel. He was a man of opportunity, promise, and talent.
(I Kings 11:38)

³⁸ *If you do whatever I command you and walk in obedience to me and do what is right in my eyes by obeying my decrees and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you. I will build you a dynasty as enduring as the one I built for David and will give Israel to you.*

B. He rebelled against God and walked in his own opinions.

C. He made the invisible God visible. He invented his own religion of convenience. He created his own feast days.

D. Jeroboam's legacy was that he became the greatest curse and snare to every generation of the northern kingdom.

E. God would deal with him only in death. (I Kings 14:10,11)

¹⁰ “‘Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel--slave or free. I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone. ¹¹ Dogs will eat those belonging to Jeroboam who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country. The LORD has spoken!’

F. The spirit of Jeroboam is a foolish spirit of invincible stubbornness.

G. This is the predominant spirit of our age as we enter into the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit before the second coming of our Lord.

II. The young man of God from Judah. / Starting well and ending badly.

A. God sends a young man of God from Judah to confront Jeroboam. (I Kings 13:1-10)

¹ *By the word of the LORD a man of God came from Judah to Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make an offering. ² By the word of the LORD he cried out against the altar: “Altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: ‘A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you.’” ³ That same day the man of God gave a sign: “This is the sign the LORD has declared: The altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out.” ⁴ When King Jeroboam heard what the man of God cried out against the altar at Bethel, he stretched out his hand from the altar and*

said, “Seize him!” But the hand he stretched out toward the man shriveled up, so that he could not pull it back.⁵ Also, the altar was split apart and its ashes poured out according to the sign given by the man of God by the word of the LORD.⁶ Then the king said to the man of God, “Intercede with the LORD your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored.” So the man of God interceded with the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored and became as it was before.⁷ The king said to the man of God, “Come home with me for a meal, and I will give you a gift.”⁸ But the man of God answered the king, “Even if you were to give me half your possessions, I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water here.⁹ For I was commanded by the word of the LORD: ‘You must not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came.’”¹⁰ So he took another road and did not return by the way he had come to Bethel.

B. The young man brings a tour de force of long-term prophecy, short-term signs, wonders, and healing.
(I Kings 13:1-10)

C. Jeroboam rejects it all.

D. The young man of God is obedient up to this point. Then he meets an old prophet.

III. The old prophet of Bethel / Starting badly and ending well.
(I Kings 13:11-14)

¹¹ Now there was a certain old prophet living in Bethel, whose sons came and told him all that the man of God had done there that day. They also told their father what he had said to the

king. ¹² Their father asked them, “Which way did he go?” And his sons showed him which road the man of God from Judah had taken. ¹³ So he said to his sons, “Saddle the donkey for me.” And when they had saddled the donkey for him, he mounted it ¹⁴ and rode after the man of God. He found him sitting under an oak tree and asked, “Are you the man of God who came from Judah?” “I am,” he replied.

- A. He was an apostate prophet in the north. His sons attended the dedication of Jeroboam’s altar. He doesn’t protest.
- B. He heard of the young man of God and wanted to meet him.
- C. He lied in order to draw him to his house. (I Kings 14:15-29) As soon as they ate, the word of the lord came to the old prophet for the first time in years. (I Kings 13:20-22) [1Ki 14:15-29 NIV] ¹⁵ And the LORD will strike Israel, so that it will be like a reed swaying in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land that he gave to their ancestors and scatter them beyond the Euphrates River, because they aroused the LORD’s anger by making Asherah poles. ¹⁶ And he will give Israel up because of the sins Jeroboam has committed and has caused Israel to commit.” ¹⁷ Then Jeroboam’s wife got up and left and went to Tirzah. As soon as she stepped over the threshold of the house, the boy died. ¹⁸ They buried him, and all Israel mourned for him, as the LORD had said through his servant the prophet Ahijah. ¹⁹ The other events of Jeroboam’s reign, his wars and how he ruled, are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel. ²⁰ He reigned for twenty-two years and then rested with his

ancestors. And Nadab his son succeeded him as king. ²¹ Rehoboam son of Solomon was king in Judah. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel in which to put his Name. His mother's name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite. ²² Judah did evil in the eyes of the LORD. By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than those who were before them had done. ²³ They also set up for themselves high places, sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. ²⁴ There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land; the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. ²⁵ In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem. ²⁶ He carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace. He took everything, including all the gold shields Solomon had made. ²⁷ So King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and assigned these to the commanders of the guard on duty at the entrance to the royal palace. ²⁸ Whenever the king went to the LORD's temple, the guards bore the shields, and afterward they returned them to the guardroom. ²⁹ As for the other events of Rehoboam's reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?

[1Ki 13:20-22 NIV] ²⁰ While they were sitting at the table, the word of the LORD came to the old prophet who had brought him back. ²¹ He cried out to the man of God who

had come from Judah, “This is what the LORD says: ‘You have defied the word of the LORD and have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you.’²² You came back and ate bread and drank water in the place where he told you not to eat or drink. Therefore your body will not be buried in the tomb of your ancestors.’”

IV. The lion and the donkey (I Kings 13:23-25)

²³ When the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the prophet who had brought him back saddled his donkey for him.

²⁴ As he went on his way, a lion met him on the road and killed him, and his body was left lying on the road, with both the donkey and the lion standing beside it. ²⁵ Some people who passed by saw the body lying there, with the lion standing beside the body, and they went and reported it in the city where the old prophet lived.

- A. God supernaturally restrains the natures of the lion and the donkey.
- B. The young man of God’s death is a message concerning disobedience, which is communicated to Jeroboam.
- C. Jeroboam misinterprets the event and assumes that his false Gods killed the young man of God. He triples down on his evil. (I Kings 13:33,34)

³³ Even after this, Jeroboam did not change his evil ways, but once more appointed priests for the high places from all sorts of people. Anyone who wanted to become a priest he consecrated for the high places. ³⁴ This was the sin of the house of Jeroboam that led to its downfall and to its destruction from the face of the earth.

V. A prophetic sight 350 years later.

A. God's word will always come to pass. (II Kings 23:14-20)

¹⁴ Josiah smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles and covered the sites with human bones. ¹⁵ Even the altar at Bethel, the high place made by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin--even that altar and high place he demolished. He burned the high place and ground it to powder, and burned the Asherah pole also. ¹⁶ Then Josiah looked around, and when he saw the tombs that were there on the hillside, he had the bones removed from them and burned on the altar to defile it, in accordance with the word of the LORD proclaimed by the man of God who foretold these things. ¹⁷ The king asked, "What is that tombstone I see?" The people of the city said, "It marks the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and pronounced against the altar of Bethel the very things you have done to it." ¹⁸ "Leave it alone," he said. "Don't let anyone disturb his bones." So they spared his bones and those of the prophet who had come from Samaria. ¹⁹ Just as he had done at Bethel, Josiah removed all the shrines at the high places that the kings of Israel had built in the towns of Samaria and that had aroused the LORD's anger. ²⁰ Josiah slaughtered all the priests of those high places on the altars and burned human bones on them. Then he went back to Jerusalem.

B. He is a multi-generational God.

C. Right now counts forever.

D. Disobedience will always be judged.

- E. This is a season for cutting edge obedience in all matters. No direction of the Lord is to be ignored.
- F. You confront the spirit of Jeroboam in the same way the young man of God from Judah functioned. Signs, wonders, healing, and then go home. Don't sit down under the oak tree.