

BREAD OF SORROW. 1 KN. 13:11-32. 12/04/22. #36.

=====
11 Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; they also told their father the words which he had spoken to the king. 12 And their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" For his sons had seen which way the man of God went who came from Judah. 13 Then he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him; and he rode on it. 14 And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak. Then he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" And he said, "I am." 15 Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread." 16 And he said, "I cannot return with you nor go in with you; neither can I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place. 17 For I have been told by the word of the LORD, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.'" 18 He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" (He was lying to him.) 19 So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water. 20 Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back; 21 and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have disobeyed the word of the LORD, and have not kept the commandment which the LORD your God commanded you, 22 but you came back, ate bread, and drank water in the place of which the LORD said to you, 'Eat no bread and drink no water,' your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.'" 23 So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, the prophet whom he had brought back. 24 When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse. 25 And there, men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road, and the lion standing by the corpse. Then they went and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. 26 Now when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard it, he said, "It is the man of God who was disobedient to the word of the LORD. Therefore, the LORD has delivered him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke to him." 27 And he spoke to his sons, saying, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled it. 28 Then he went and found his corpse thrown on the road, and the donkey and the lion standing by the corpse. The lion had not eaten the corpse nor torn the donkey. 29 And the prophet took up the corpse of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back. So the old prophet came to the city to mourn, and to bury him. 30 Then he laid the corpse in his own tomb; and they mourned over him, saying, "Alas, my brother!" 31 So it was, after he had buried him, that he spoke to his sons, saying, "When I am dead, then bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones." 32 For the saying which he cried out by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the high places on the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass.
=====

1. The unnamed prophet had completed the hard task

- a. The prophet had 4 tasks:
 - a1. Go to Bethel & cry out against the pagan altar that God put a curse on
 - a2. Prophecy the destruction of the altar
 - a3. Return to Judah by a different route
 - a4. Don't eat or drink in land of Judah
- b. The hard part was to confront King Jeroboam
 - a1. Jer.'s withered hand softened his approach
 - a2. Even after his hand was restored by God & the altar split, Jer. did not repent
- c. The prophet turned down an invitation to dine with the king and receive a reward

2. Obstacle of doom

- a. Often, even after a great victory over temptation or via completing a difficult task, unexpected trial rise
- b. The prophet stops to rest under an oak tree
 - a1. He was not told not to take a break
 - a2. He figures that his task is done

- c. Sons of an old prophet of the Lord in Bethel tell their father about the what the prophet had done
 - a1. The old prophet pursues the man of God
 - a2. Had he not stopped to rest, the old pr. would not have caught up with him
- d. The old pr. identifies himself as a prophet of God
 - a1. He invites the pr. to dine with him
 - a2. The pr. states that he cannot do so
- e. The old pr. lies
 - a1. He is lonely & misses fellowship with other men of God
 - a2. He tells the pr. that an angel of the Lord came to him & told him that the pr. was to return home with him to dine
 - a3. This may have been the reason why God did not choose to deliver his message via the old pr. (he had been corrupted)
- f. The pr. yields to the old pr., even though God had not come to him to countermand his first orders

3. Dessert of death

- a. In the midst of dinner, the Lord informs the old pr. that his guest will not be buried in his own land
 - a1. He informs the pr., but does not confess that he had lied to him
 - a2. The pr. trusted the old pr. to his hurt
- b. Because the pr. had disobeyed God's command not to eat or drink in Israel, he would not see home
- c. On the way out of the city a lion kills the pr., but does not harm the donkey
 - a1. Both beasts stand next to the prophet
 - a2. The old pr. buries the pr. in his own tomb
- d. The will of God is made clear to its recipient
 - a1. Had God changed his mind about the pr. eating & drinking in Israel, he would have told the prophet directly
 - a2. The disobedience of the pr. ruined the imagery of Israel being polluted
- e. A task is not done until all facets of the task are completed, even the smallest details