

1 Kings 13

Verses 1-10

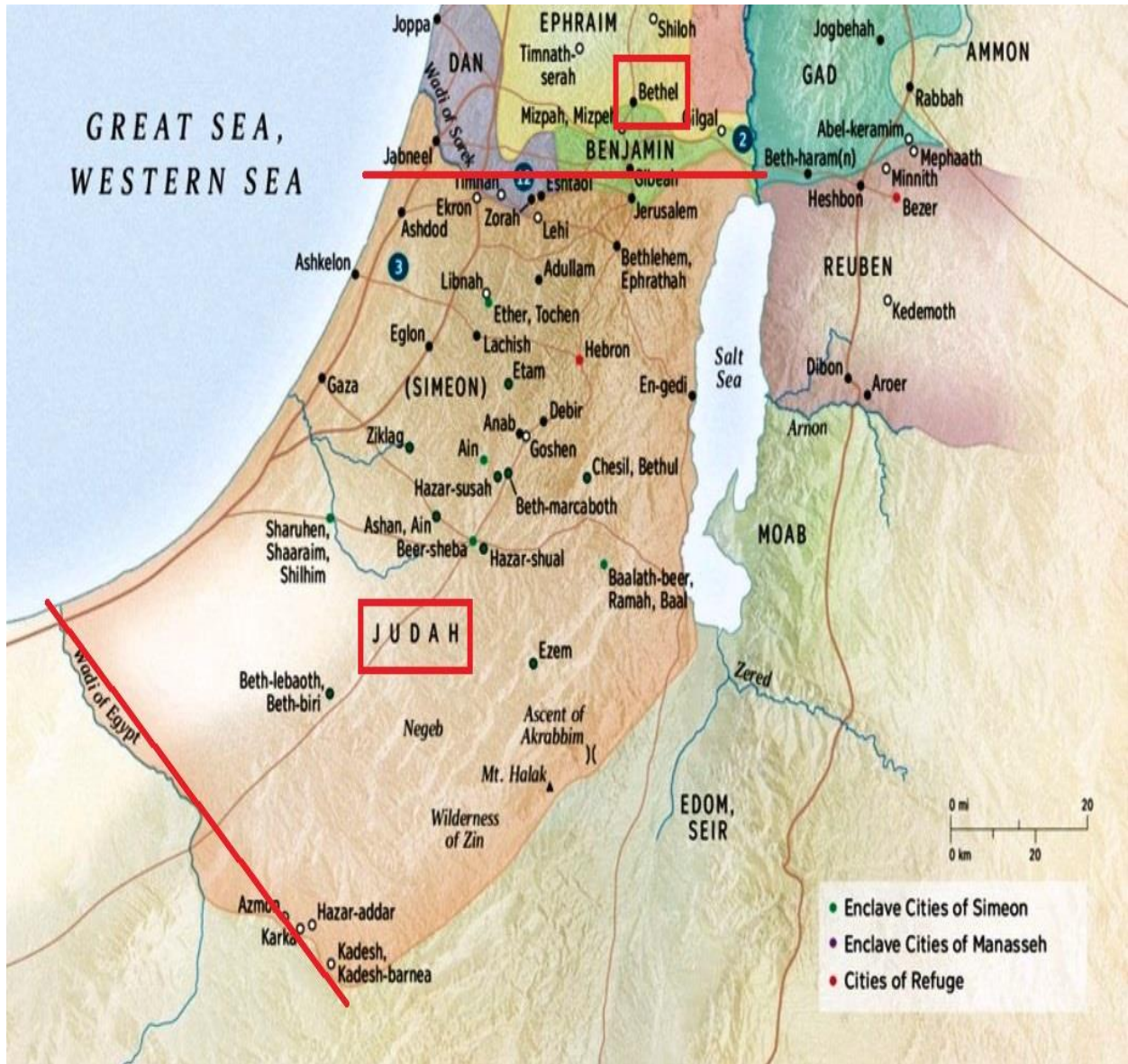
Now behold, there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense. ² He cried against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, “O altar, altar, thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.’” ³ Then he gave a sign the same day, saying, “This is the sign which the Lord has spoken, ‘Behold, the altar shall be split apart and the ashes which are on it shall be poured out.’” ⁴ Now when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar in Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, “Seize him.” But his hand which he stretched out against him dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself. ⁵ The altar also was split apart and the ashes were poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the Lord. ⁶ The king said to the man of God, “Please entreat the Lord your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me.” So the man of God entreated the Lord, and the king’s hand was restored to him, and it became as it was before. ⁷ Then the king said to the man of God, “Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward.” ⁸ But the man of God said to the king, “If you were to give me half your house I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water in this place. ⁹ For so it was commanded me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘You shall eat no bread, nor drink water, nor return by the way which you came.’” ¹⁰ So he went another way and did not return by the way which he came to Bethel.

Now behold, there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense.

The close connection of this narrative with the preceding chapter may indicate that this is the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles ordained by Jeroboam.

It doesn’t say where in Judah the man of God came from so the trip could have taken up to 3 days. Judah had the largest portion of land among the 12 tribes so the trip could have had a maximum range of 80 miles or about a three day journey.

See Map 1305



² He cried against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, “O altar, altar, thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.”

Josiah will be the 15th king of the southern kingdom. He will reign from 640 to 609 BC. Jeroboam became king in 930 BC so this prophecy is given 300 years before it takes place.

See pic 1310

South

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Rehoboam	930	913	17	
2	Abijam (aka Abijah)	913	911	3	
3	Asa	911	870	41	
4	Jehoshaphat	873/870	848	25	3 years
5	Jehoram	853/848	841	8	5 years
6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)	841	841	1	
	Athaliah	841-835	835	6	
7	Joash (aka Jehoash)	835-796	796	40	
8	Amaziah	796-767	767	29	
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)	791/767	740	52	24 years
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years
11	Ahaz	743/731	715	16	12 years
12	Hezekiah	728/715	686	29	13 years
13	Manasseh	696/686	642	55	10 years
14	Amon	642	640	2	
15	Josiah	640	609	31	
16	Jehoahaz	609	609	3 months	
17	Jehoiakim	609	598	11	
18	Jehoiachin	598	597	3 months	
19	Zedekiah	597	586	11	

Someone might question why God would use a person's name long before they were born. When God named Cyrus nearly two centuries before his birth he did it to make a point.

See Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ This is what the Lord says to Cyrus His anointed,
Whom I have taken by the right hand,
To subdue nations before him
And to undo *the weapons belt on the waist of kings;*
To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

² “I will go before you and make the rough places smooth;
I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
And hidden wealth of secret places,
So that you may know that it is I,
The Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of Jacob My servant,
And Israel My chosen one,
I have also called you by your name;

I have given you a title of honor
Though you have not known Me.

⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no one else;
There is no God except Me.
I will arm you, though you have not known Me,

⁶ So that people may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
That there is no one besides Me.

I am the Lord, and there is no one else,
⁷ The One forming light and creating darkness,
Causing well-being and creating disaster;
I am the Lord who does all these things.

³ Then he gave a sign the same day, saying, “This is the sign which the Lord has spoken, ‘Behold, the altar shall be split apart and the ashes which are on it shall be poured out.’”

The prophecy about the bones of Jeroboam that would take place 300 years in the future was backed up by a sign that took place immediately.

⁴ Now when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar in Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, “Seize him.” But his hand which he stretched out against him dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself.

This was not part of the sign but it did get his attention. Now that God had his full attention the sign was given and the altar was split apart and the ashes were poured out.

Right after the sign was given Jeroboam asked to be healed. The king’s hand was restored to him and he wanted to reward the prophet for this act of kindness but the prophet would not accept a gift.

⁸ But the man of God said to the king, “If you were to give me half your house I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water in this place. ⁹ For so it was commanded me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘You shall eat no bread, nor drink water, nor return by the way which you came.’” ¹⁰ So he went another way and did not return by the way which he came to Bethel.

The refusal to accept the hospitality of the king was not a personal issue but a command from the Lord to do so.

Verses 11-19

Now an old prophet was living in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the deeds which the man of God had done that day in Bethel; the words which he had spoken to the king, these also they related to their father. ¹² Their father said to them, “Which way did he go?” Now his sons had seen the way which the man of God who came from Judah had gone. ¹³ Then he said to his sons, “Saddle the donkey for me.” So they saddled the donkey for him and he rode away on it. ¹⁴ So he went after the man of God and found him sitting under an oak; and 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 He said, “I cannot return with you, nor go with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. ¹⁷ For a command *came* to me by the word of the Lord, ‘You shall eat no bread, nor drink water there; do not return by going the way which you came.’” ¹⁸ He said to him, “I also am a prophet like you, 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.’” *But* he lied to him. ¹⁹ So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house and drank water.

¹⁴ So he went after the man of God and found him sitting under an oak; and he said to him, “Are you the man of God who came from Judah?” And he said, “I am.”

The man of God was on his way back home but had stopped at an oak tree to take a rest from his journey.

The older prophet found him and asked him to come home with him and eat bread.

Someone took a pic of this with their phone. 😊

See pic 1315



¹⁶ He said, “I cannot return with you, nor go with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. ¹⁷ For a command *came* to me by the word of the Lord, ‘You shall eat no bread, nor drink water there; do not return by going the way which you came.’”

The prophet was an honest man but he revealed some facts that allowed a dishonest man to take advantage of him. Christians need to be truthful people but we also need to be wise in our speech with others.

¹⁸ He said to him, “I also am a prophet like you, 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.’” But he lied to him. ¹⁹ So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house and drank water.

God had given the prophet clear instructions so why would He then send another prophet to contradict what he had said? That just doesn't pass the smell test.

Verses 20-25

Now it came about, as they were sitting down at the table, that the word of the Lord came to the prophet who had brought him back; ²¹ and he cried to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, “Thus says the Lord, ‘Because you have disobeyed the command of the Lord, and have not observed the commandment which the Lord your God commanded you, ²² but have returned and eaten bread and drunk water in the place of which He said to you, “Eat no bread and drink no water”; your body shall not come to the grave of your fathers.’” ²³ It came about after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, for the prophet whom he had brought back. ²⁴ Now when he had gone, a lion met him on the way and killed him, and his body was thrown on the road, with the donkey standing beside it; the lion also was standing beside the body. ²⁵ And behold, men passed by and saw the body thrown on the road, and the lion standing beside the body; so they came and told *it* in the city where the old prophet lived.

Now it came about, as they were sitting down at the table, that the word of the Lord came to the prophet who had brought him back; ²¹ and he cried to the man of God who came from Judah, saying,.... your body shall not come to the grave of your fathers.”

This old prophet had lied, but now he is speaking the word of God. He was somewhat like Balaam in that respect.

However the message to the prophet was clear, he would not be buried with his fathers.

²⁴ Now when he had gone, a lion met him on the way and killed him, and his body was thrown on the road, with the donkey standing beside it; the lion also was standing beside the body.

God used a natural means (a lion) to kill the prophet but the death of the man of God was a supernatural event. Sometimes God uses a natural means to accomplish His will and at other times He uses a supernatural means.

See 2 Kings 19:35

³⁵ Then it happened that night that the angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when *the rest* got up early in the morning, behold, all of the 185,000 were dead.

Verses 26-30

Now when the prophet who brought him back from the way heard *it*, he said, “It is the man of God, who disobeyed the command of the Lord; therefore the Lord has given him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke to him.” ²⁷ Then he spoke to his sons, saying, “Saddle the donkey for me.” And they saddled *it*. ²⁸ He went and found his body thrown on the road with the donkey and the lion standing beside the body; the lion had not eaten the body nor torn the donkey. ²⁹ So the prophet took up the body of the man of God and laid it on the donkey and brought it back, and he came to the city of the old prophet to mourn and to bury him. ³⁰ He laid his body in his own grave, and they mourned over him, *saying*, “Alas, my brother!”

Now when the prophet who brought him back from the way heard *it*, he said, “It is the man of God, who disobeyed the command of the Lord; therefore the Lord has given him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke to him.”

This is in keeping with the scripture that says, “To those who have been given much, much is expected”

See Luke 12:48

.....From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

He was given the privilege of being a prophet of God so he had a greater responsibility to do exactly as God commanded.

²⁸ He went and found his body thrown on the road with the donkey and the lion standing beside the body; the lion had not eaten the body nor torn the donkey.

At first this may seem rather unusual but this was clearly a sign to indicate the supernatural nature of the man’s death.

³⁰ He laid his body in his own grave, and they mourned over him, *saying*, “Alas, my brother!”

A fellow prophet had died and to a certain degree they were responsible.

Verse 31-32

³¹ After he had buried him, he spoke to his sons, saying, “When I die, bury me in the grave in which the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones.

³² For the thing shall surely come to pass which he cried by the word of the Lord against the altar in Bethel and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria.”

³² For the thing shall surely come to pass which he cried by the word of the Lord against the altar in Bethel and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria.”

The old prophet was certain that everything the man of God had said would come true.

See verse 2 again

² He cried against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, “O altar, altar, thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and on **you** he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on **you**, and human bones shall be burned on you.’”

The “you” here is a reference to the altar of the golden calf in Bethel. This will take place 300 years in the future.

Verse 33-34

After this event Jeroboam did not return from his evil way, but again he made priests of the high places from among all the people; any who would, he ordained, to be priests of the high places. ³⁴ This event became sin to the house of Jeroboam, even to blot *it* out and destroy *it* from off the face of the earth.

³⁴ This event became sin to the house of Jeroboam, even to blot *it* out and destroy *it* from off the face of the earth.

Jeroboam made paganism the official religion of Israel. The following is a recap of his sins.

1. He persuaded the people not to go to Jerusalem to worship.
2. He promoted a corrupt Feast of Tabernacles

3. He erected idols in Dan, Bethel, and Samaria
4. He established high places all over northern Israel
5. He consecrated priests from tribes other than Levi.

Because of these sins the house of Jeroboam was overthrown by King Baasha (3rd king of Israel) and his entire household was killed.

See 1 Kings 15:28-30

²⁸ So Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place. ²⁹ And as soon as he was king, he struck and killed all the household of Jeroboam. He did not leave Jeroboam any persons alive, *but kept killing* until he had eliminated them, in accordance with the word of the Lord which He spoke by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite, ³⁰ *and* because of the sins of Jeroboam which he committed, and into which he misled Israel, because of his provocation with which he provoked the Lord God of Israel to anger.