



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA  
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## 1 KINGS 12-13

*Related Topics: Divided Kingdom; Jeroboam; Rehoboam; Shechem; Bad Counsel; Idolatry; Carnality and Convenient Worship; Dan; Bethel; Josiah*

### INTRODUCTION

Chapter 11 records the apex of Solomon's failure in his relationship with the Lord. As he grew older he failed to fully follow the Lord.

*<sup>3</sup>..... And his wives turned away his heart. <sup>4</sup>For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.*

As a judgment upon Solomon's divided heart and idolatry God divided Solomon's kingdom. God ordained the division of Israel into 2 kingdoms — 10 tribes in the North and 2 in the south. God ordained a man named Jeroboam to rule the Northern kingdom.

Chapter 11 closed with Solomon passing off the scene.

***1 Kings 11:42-43** <sup>42</sup>And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. <sup>43</sup>And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.*

700 wives — 300 Concubines — 1 rebellious son! What a tragic legacy!

So Rehoboam and Jeroboam are the central figures of the coming history of the nation of Israel. We don't want to confuse the Boam-boys. Reho-boam is the son of Solomon, who will rule the Southern kingdom. Jero-boam is the son of Nebat who will rule the Northern kingdom.

## CHAPTER 12

### **<sup>1</sup>Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.**

The united nation at this moment came to crown Rehoboam king.

In one sense it made perfect sense to crown Rehoboam king in that spot. It was the geographical center of the land of Israel. It was also at the center of Israel's history. Abraham worshipped there ([Genesis 12:6](#)). Jacob built an altar and purchased land and dug a well there ([Genesis 33:18-20](#)). Joseph was buried there ([Joshua 24:32](#)). Mt. Ebal and Gerizim were there.

### TWO PROBLEMS

1.) It showed that Rehoboam was in a position of weakness, having to meet the ten northern tribes on *their* territory, instead of their representatives coming to Jerusalem which was the seat of Israel's government under David and Solomon.

2.) Most significantly — It might have made perfect sense in the natural to crown the king of Israel there but — it made zero sense in the plans of God. Shechem was not the center of Israel as far as God was concerned. Shechem was not the place where God had placed His name. Shechem was not the place that was ordained by God to be the center of Israel's worship. Shechem was not the place from which God had promised that the Messiah would rule over the earth. God had placed His Name on Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the center of Israel by God's reckoning. In fact — by God's reckoning — Jerusalem is the center of God's universe. That totally wrecks the mind of the natural man.

***Zechariah 12:2** "Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples."*

There is an irrational animosity and hostility towards the Jews and Jerusalem (as Steve the tour guide calls it). Listen to what comes out of the U.N. — an organization that lets some of the most murderous regimes stand in judgment against Israel and accuse Israel of human rights violations. Listen to reporters on CNN or Sky News in Britain and the disdain they have towards that people and that city.

We need to let God determine where the center really is. On a global level Man has his ideas as to where the center is and he has based it on — for the most part — reasonable things, reasonable calculations and considerations. When it comes to global economics it has been reasonable (until only recently) to think of things centered around the stock exchange in London, New York, and Tokyo. When it comes to things geo-political it is reasonable to think of things centered around Washington D.C., London, Moscow, and China things. **God says** — NO, the center is Jerusalem. God's redemptive economy and rule has flowed from Jerusalem and is flowing back to Jerusalem.

On the individual level Man has his ideas as to what the center of his life ought to be. The Bible says that fallen man centers his life around passions, possessions and position. **God says** — NO, Jesus is the only center that holds. Life is in Jesus and life flows from Jesus. We determine the center of God's will for our lives relative to how any decision affects our relationship with Jesus and our relationship to His Word. Think about it — The world outside of Jesus processes decisions about school, job, boyfriend, girlfriend, marriage, where to live from it's center (passions, possession and position). But the life centered in Jesus processes those decisions by asking — *Will I know and love Jesus more because of this decision? Will I be more effective in serving Him because of this decision?*

Even as God's center of the universe stumbles natural man — so too Jesus stumbles the fallen sensibilities of mankind. There is an irrational animosity and hostility to Jesus and those who have made Jesus the center of their lives.

### **PSALM 2** sums it up

*<sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed, <sup>3</sup> "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords*

*from us.”<sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.<sup>5</sup> Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,<sup>6</sup> “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”<sup>7</sup> I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.<sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.<sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”<sup>10</sup> Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.<sup>11</sup> Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.<sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

**<sup>2</sup>And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt.**

Remember — Solomon appreciated Jeroboam because he was a talented and industrious guy. While serving under Solomon, a prophet of God named Ahijah came to Jeroboam and told him that God was going to make him ruler over the 10 Northern tribes of Israel. Solomon got word of it and tried to kill Jeroboam ([1 Kings 11: 40](#)). Solomon essentially blew off the prophet of God and the Word of God. He sought to kill Jeroboam and thus over rule the will of God — but he was unsuccessful.

**<sup>3</sup>And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam, <sup>4</sup>“Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you.”**

**REMEMBER** — In looking at [1 Kings 11:27](#) we noted that Jewish tradition has it that Jeroboam opposed the oppressive use of forced labor in Solomon’s building projects — it was like a tax paid by way of labor. Government had become big and expensive (I know you can’t relate to this.) So try to imagine this — they are saying — “*If you cut or taxes we’ll vote for you!*” There really is nothing new under the sun.

**BY THE WAY** — God warned Israel about this in [1 Samuel 8:10-19](#), when through Samuel He spoke of what a king would *take* from Israel. Despite God’s warning the people still wanted a king, and now they knew

what it was like to be ruled by a *taking* king.

**<sup>5</sup>He said to them, “Go away for three days, then come again to me.” So the people went away. <sup>6</sup>Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer **this** people?”**

**NOTE: THIS** people — not GOD’S people. His dad might have ended miserably but he did start well. At the beginning of his rule Solomon asked God for wisdom

*1 Kings 3:8-9* <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

**<sup>7</sup>And they said to him, “If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.”**

These wise old men were telling Rehoboam that the key to authority is humility. **Jesus is the epitome of this**

*Mat 11:28-30* Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

*Mat 20:28* even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Jesus did not come to tax us but to serve us. While we bicker over who is great, He washes our dirty feet. He is awesome! There is none like Jesus!

**<sup>8</sup>But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him.**

A few thoughts here —

1.) There is disagreement as to the age of Rehoboam at this moment. In [1 Kings 14:21](#) we are told that he was 41 years at the time he began to rule over the Southern kingdom. It is possible that this is a manuscript error and that it should have read 21 years old.

Regardless — these men are notably younger than the men Rehoboam consulted at the first.

2.) Before Rehoboam ever consulted with the younger men **he abandoned the advice** of the elders.

Rehoboam was "advice shopping." In the setting of the local church I call it "pastoral roulette." The idea is that you keep asking different people for advice until you find someone who will tell you what you want to hear. This is an unwise and ungodly way to get counsel. It is better to have a few trusted counselors you will listen to even when they tell you what you don't want to hear.

3.) **took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him.**

That is essentially like my son Nathan asking Travis (our youth pastor) for advice — not liking what Travis told him — abandoning the advice of the older and wiser believer — and asking the kids he grew up with what they think he should do! What would they know about anything!

By turning to those likely to think just as he did, it shows that Rehoboam only asked advice from the older men merely for the sake of appearances

It is always a good idea to seek seeking counsel from *outside* our immediate context. If I'm young — it is a wise thing to ask advice from someone outside my age and experience — they can see things more clearly than those who share our same experiences.

<sup>9</sup>And he said to them, “What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, ‘Lighten the yoke that your father put on us?’” <sup>10</sup>And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, “Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,’ thus shall you say to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s thighs. <sup>11</sup>And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”

<sup>12</sup>So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, “Come to me again the third day.”

<sup>13</sup>And the king answered the people harshly, and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, <sup>14</sup>he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”

Solomon asked a lot of Israel, in both taxes and service. Yet we are never given the impression that a united Israel ever followed Solomon out of fear. They were willing to sacrifice and labor because they shared Solomon’s vision. They believed in what Solomon wanted to do, and were willing to sacrifice to accomplish it.

Rehoboam didn’t base his appeal to the people — God’s people — on any sense of shared vision and purpose. He based it in a warped sense of his power and the belief that he could gain respect by way of fear!

**DON’T MISS THIS** — A dozen rash words resulted in centuries of strife, weakness, idolatry and destruction. The fallout of which would lead to hatred between Jews and Samaritans in the days of Jesus, as witnessed in John 4.

**QUOTE:** Alexander Maclaren — *neither the foolish speaker nor any man in that crowd dreamed of the unnumbered evils to flow from that hour. Since issues are so far beyond our sight, how careful it becomes us to be of motives!*

*Angry counsels are always blunders. No nation can prosper when moderate complaints are met by threats.....*

**<sup>15</sup>So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by the Lord that he might fulfill his word, which the Lord spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.**

**QUESTION:** Is there any human responsibility here — or is it entirely a matter of Divine sovereignty?

On earth we find a rash, proud, young king — and opposed to him a dissatisfied people. Each wanting things their own way. Neither party is free of sin or self-concern. It's a storm of passions on both sides — without any thought or concern for God or His purposes.

Above sits the Lord — working out His great purposes despite of and by way of men's sin. Rehoboam's disregard for the people was 'a thing brought about of the Lord,' — but it was Rehoboam's sin none the less. Looked at from the mere human side — this division is the sinful result of the man's choice and wrong motives. But when viewed from heaven it is the determinate counsel of God.

The death of Jesus on the cross — which is the single greatest sin and crime in the history of mankind — was at the same time the accomplishment of God's most merciful purpose.

*Acts 2:23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.*

That sovereignty of God in the plan of redemption does not in the least affect the freedom of choice or the guilt of those involved in the cross of Jesus — or in any matter.

**<sup>16</sup>And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse.**

Rehoboam's harshness and arrogance didn't merely result in the 10

Northern tribes rejecting him — it resulted in those tribes rejecting the entire dynasty of David.

**To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David.” So Israel went to their tents. <sup>17</sup>But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah. <sup>18</sup>Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death with stones.**

Apparently, Rehoboam did not take the rebellions seriously until this happened. When his chief tax collector was murdered, he knew that the ten tribes were serious about their rebellion.

Adoram was the wrong man to send. He was famous for his harsh policy of forced labor.

**And King Rehoboam hurried to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup>So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. <sup>20</sup>And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only.**

**SO — the Kingdom is divided.** The year is approximately **930 BC**.

From this point on in the history of Israel, the name "Israel" referred to the 10 northern tribes and the name "Judah" referred to the southern tribes of Benjamin and Judah. That division carried on until approximately **722 BC** when Samaria — the capital of the Northern kingdom fell to the Assyrians. **The southern kingdom lasted until about 598 BC** when they Jerusalem was destroyed and it's inhabitants carried away by the Babylonians. The Northern kingdom would have **NO** good kings. Judah would have 19 kings of which only 8 were good.

**<sup>21</sup>When Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen**

warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. <sup>22</sup>But the word of God came to **Shemaiah the man of God:** <sup>23</sup>“Say to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, <sup>24</sup>“Thus says the Lord, You shall not go up or fight against your relatives the people of Israel. Every man return to his home, for this thing is from me.” So they listened to the word of the Lord and went home again, according to the word of the Lord.

Rehoboam intended to make war against the seceding tribes of Israel, but God spoke through a prophet and stopped him. To his credit - or perhaps due to a lack of courage - Rehoboam listened to God's word through *Shemaiah the man of God*.

**QUOTE: Spurgeon** — *“Here is one Shemaiah, - some of you never heard of him before, perhaps you will never hear of him again; he appears once in this history, and then he vanishes; he comes, and he goes, - only fancy this one man constraining to peace a hundred and eighty thousand chosen men, warriors ready to fight against the house of Israel, by giving to them in very plain, unpolished words, the simple command of God . . . Why have we not such power? Peradventure, brethren, we do not always speak in the name of the Lord, or speak God’s Word as God’s Word. If we (simply speak) out of our own thoughts, why should men mind us?”*

<sup>25</sup>**Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel.**

Jeroboam's reign began with energy and opportunity.

**REMEMBER** —back in [Chapter 11:38](#) God promised that He would establish for Jeroboam a parallel dynasty to the House of David if Jeroboam would walk in obedience to the Lord like David did.

But Jeroboam would not trust the promise of God to establish his kingdom or his dynasty. Instead of seeing himself as leading the people to serve the true and living God, Jeroboam set out to create a religion that would serve

the state and preserve his power.

**<sup>26</sup>And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David.**

He did not talk with the Lord — He just thought it out in his own heart. That is where we get messed up. Leaving God out of our decisions and *leaning to our own understanding*.

**<sup>27</sup>If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.”**

From the human standpoint he had a legitimate concern. But fact that had a kingdom to rule was the Lord’s doing — thus it was not his to preserve. But he allowed his human fears to overshadow the promise of God. Fear and faith are mutually exclusive. In unbelief he acted to preserve his throne at the expense of destroying the faith of the men and women God had given for him to lead.

**<sup>28</sup>So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” <sup>29</sup>And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. <sup>30</sup>Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.**

**TWO THINGS HERE —**

**1.) NLT — <sup>28</sup>So on the advice of his counselors, the king made two gold calves.**

Here is a guy who had heard the real Word of God from a real prophet of God. Now he listens to advice that is patently contrary to the First Commandments given by the God of Israel.

*Exodus 20:1-4* <sup>1</sup>And God spoke all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup>“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” <sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God,

We will listen to a lie if we think it serves our selfish concerns.

**2.) NLT** — <sup>28</sup> ... He said to the people, “It is too much trouble for you to worship in Jerusalem. Look, Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of Egypt!”

To secure his own position, he appealed to the people’s carnality. In other words — “You don’t have to deny yourself to worship God”

**What a contrast to what Jesus said** — *Mat 16:24* Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

**Paul the Apostle would write** — *Rom 8:8* So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. I cannot simultaneously cater to my flesh and live after the Spirit. They are opposed to each other.

*Gal 5:17* <sup>17</sup>For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other

If you are living after the Spirit you cannot be living after the flesh. Conversely - if you are living after the flesh you cannot be living after the Spirit

If you are looking for a way to please your flesh — an easy way to serve God — an easy way to worship God — then it is not the right way. It is the way of man — not the way of God.

*Prov 14:12* There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Easy religion is very pleasing to the flesh. The idea of worshipping and serving God without cost or discomfort is very appealing to my flesh. If I

go after such stuff, it is proof that the flesh is ruling my life and not the Spirit.

<sup>31</sup>He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people (**KJV = lowest of the people**), who were not of the Levites. <sup>32</sup>And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. <sup>33</sup>He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised from his own heart. And he instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings.

He did everything his own way — all to the end that he might preserve his kingdom. I wonder if he ever thought about the moral and spiritual pit he was digging for his children and grandchildren.

## CHAPTER 13

<sup>1</sup>And behold, a man of God came out of Judah by the word of the Lord to Bethel. Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make offerings. <sup>2</sup>And the man 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 he shall sacrifice on you the priests of the high places who make offerings on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.’” <sup>3</sup>And he gave a sign the same day, saying, “This is the sign that the Lord has spoken: ‘Behold, the altar shall be torn down, and the ashes that are on it shall be poured out.’”

WOW! God is so LONGSUFFERING

**QUOTE: KNAPP** — *“If Jeroboam would not have Jehovah’s priests, God sends His prophet into his land.”*

A man — un-named, and unknown to us — prophesies the birth of Josiah, that would take place some 300+ years later. A great revival came under Josiah (**2 Kings 22-23**).

Since Josiah's reign is still 300 years away, a detailed sign is also described and then enacted, indicating that the prophecy is true.

**<sup>4</sup>And when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar at Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, “Seize him.”**

The prophecy from this unknown man of God was like most every message of coming judgment. It was a merciful invitation to repentance — restoration and revitalization

Jeroboam obviously did not accept this invitation. Jeroboam’s reaction was immediate — he sought to **silence** the messenger rather than **respond** to the message.

**And his hand, which he stretched out against him, dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself. <sup>5</sup>The altar also was torn down, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign that the man of God had given by the word of the Lord. <sup>6</sup>And the king said to the man of God, “Entreat now the favor of the Lord your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me.” And the man of God entreated the Lord, and the king’s hand was restored to him and became as it was before.**

The ensuing chapters tell us that Jeroboam either didn’t really repent here or if it was genuine it was only for a moment.

We need to see that wanting to receive something from God is not the same as repentance.

<sup>7</sup>And the king said to the man of God, “Come home with me, and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward.” <sup>8</sup>And the man of God said to the king, “If you give me half your house, I will not go in with you. And I will not eat bread or drink water in this place, <sup>9</sup>for so was it commanded me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘You shall neither eat bread nor drink water nor return by the way that you came.’” <sup>10</sup>So he went another way and did not return by the way that he came to Bethel. <sup>11</sup>Now an old prophet lived in Bethel. And his sons came and told him all that the man of God had done that day in Bethel. They also told to their father the words that he had spoken to the king. <sup>12</sup>And their father said to them, “Which way did he go?” And his sons showed him the way that the man of God who came from Judah had gone. <sup>13</sup>And he said to his sons, “Saddle the donkey for me.” So they saddled the donkey for him and he mounted it. <sup>14</sup>And 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.” <sup>15</sup>Then he said to him, “Come home with me and eat bread.” <sup>16</sup>And he said, “I may not return with you, or go in with you, neither will I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place, <sup>17</sup>for it was said to me by the word of the Lord, ‘You shall neither eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by the way that you came.’” <sup>18</sup>And he said to him, “I also am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘Bring him back with you into your house that he may eat bread and drink water.’” But he lied to him. <sup>19</sup>So he went back with him and ate bread in his house and drank water. <sup>20</sup>And as they sat at the table, the word of the Lord came to the prophet who had brought him back. <sup>21</sup>And he cried to the man of God who came from Judah, “Thus says the Lord, ‘Because you have disobeyed the word of the Lord and have not kept the command that the Lord your God commanded you, <sup>22</sup>but have come back and have 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 tomb of your fathers.”<sup>23</sup> And after he had eaten bread and drunk, he saddled the donkey for the prophet whom he had brought back.<sup>24</sup> And as he went away a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his body was thrown in the road, and the donkey stood beside it; the lion also stood beside the body.<sup>25</sup> And behold, men passed by and saw the body thrown in the road and the lion standing by the body. And they came and told it in the city where the old prophet lived.<sup>26</sup> And when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard of it, he said, “It is the man of God who disobeyed the word of the Lord; therefore the Lord has given him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word that the Lord spoke to him.”<sup>27</sup> And he said to his sons, “Saddle the donkey for me.” And they saddled it.<sup>28</sup> And he went and found his body thrown in the road, and the donkey and the lion standing beside the body. The lion had not eaten the body or torn the donkey.<sup>29</sup> And the prophet took up the body of the man of God and laid it on the donkey and brought it back to the city to mourn and to bury him.<sup>30</sup> And he laid the body in his own grave. And they mourned over him, saying, “Alas, my brother!”<sup>31</sup> And after he had buried him, he said to his sons, “When I die, bury me in the grave in which the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones.”<sup>32</sup> For the saying that he called out by the word of the Lord against the altar in Bethel and against all the houses of the high places that are in the cities of Samaria shall surely come to pass.”<sup>33</sup> After this thing Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but made priests for the high places again from among all the people. Any who would, he ordained to be priests of the high places.<sup>34</sup> And this thing became sin to the house of Jeroboam, so as to cut it off and to destroy it from the face of the earth.

**You might be asking yourself** — What in the world is that all about? A young prophet being used by God — An old prophet deceiving the young one — and the young man being torn up by a lion.

*Gal 1:8-9* But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup>As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

Paul says - *I do not care who speaks to you — Even if an angel speaks to you, if that revelation is in contradiction to the Word of God, then you are to totally and completely reject it — Lest you be torn up by a lion..... the one spoken of by Peter*

*1 Pet 5:8* <sup>8</sup>Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Paul said of Satan

*2 Cor 11:14* <sup>14</sup>And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. <sup>15</sup>So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.

**KEY APPLICATION:** No matter how appealing it sounds.... How exciting the experience — It must measure up to the Word. Study it and ask God to enable you to keep it.