**Beware Conflicting Voices Of The World**

Prepared by Nathan Morrison for Sunday July 25th, 2021

Text: I Kings 13

Intro

1. We live in a time of conflicting voices – voices of the world conflict with the voice of God!
   1. Voices of the world conflict with the word of God in matters of: obedience, morality, concerning the church, true worship, and salvation, etc.
2. The matter of conflicting voices has always been around – *Gen. 3: Eve & Satan confrontation.*
   1. The solution to conflicting voices where God’s word is concerned has always been to consult the source to determine truth from lie *(I Kings 22:5-7: Jehoshaphat; Jer. 23).*
3. I Kings 13 contains example and warnings against listening to conflicting voices.
4. Background – *I Kings 12:25-33*
   1. Following King Solomon’s death the 12 Tribes of Israel split.
   2. 10 Tribes in the north follow King Jeroboam, while the 2 in the south still follow the House of David, Solomon’s son King Rehoboam.
   3. Jeroboam was afraid the Tribes in the north would turn back to Judah’s rightful king if they kept the annual feasts in Jerusalem and that they may turn to King Rehoboam.
   4. So he changed a few things:
      1. Object of worship (12:28): Two Golden Calves
      2. Place of worship (12:29): Bethel & Dan
      3. Leaders of worship (12:31): From among ***ALL*** the people who were not Levis
      4. Time of worship (12:32-33): Eighth month on the fifteenth day
5. The people of Israel were listening to conflicting voices, and God sent them the answer!
6. **Man of God from Judah**
   1. I Kings 13:1-3
      1. After Jeroboam’s religious changes (idolatry) a man of God is sent to Bethel.
      2. He is introduced as simply “a man of God from Judah.”
      3. He bravely confronted an evil king in the act of idolatry.
   2. I Kings 13:2-6
   3. The man of God acting “by the word of the Lord” prophesied against the altar, and against the false priests offering upon it, and named Josiah by name as the reformer.
   4. The man of God was protected from harm by the king or his men, as God withered his outstretched hand – proving the event and signs were from God!
   5. The sign on the alter happened to signify further this man’s message was from God – the altar split in two and the ashes poured out according to “the word of the Lord.”
   6. The man of God entreated God on behalf of Jeroboam and his hand was restored.
   7. I Kings 13:7-10
      1. The king invited him to come refresh himself and gain a reward.
      2. The man of God said, “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. 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.' " (13:8-9)
      3. He obeyed the voice of the Lord, and “went another way and did not return by the way which he came to Bethel.” (13:10)
   8. In the conflict of voices here the word of God prevailed over the altar and the king!
7. **Old Prophet from Bethel**
8. I Kings 13:11-14
   1. No record of who this man is other than he was “an old prophet” “living in Bethel.”
   2. His sons were present at the splitting of the altar and told their father.
   3. They also saw where the man of God went and their father decided to follow.
   4. He found the man of God “sitting under an oak.”
9. I Kings 13:15-17
   1. The old prophet invited the man of God to his house and received the same answer as the king did.
10. One can surmise about his character at this point of narrative by asking, “If he was a prophet and lived in Bethel, why the need for a prophet from Judah?”
    1. Why not send the man that lived close by?
    2. His character demonstrates the answer.
11. There was no conflict here for the man of God knew God’s answer!
12. **Conflicting Voices**
13. I Kings 13:18-19
    1. The old prophet lied to the man of God and told him an angel told him to bring the man to his house. (His lying, perhaps, tells us why God did not use him!)
    2. He said he was speaking a message from God too, but it conflicted with what the message from God the man of God knew and had demonstrated!
    3. But he obeyed and followed the old prophet from Bethel!
14. *I Kings 13:20-32*
    1. God used the old prophet from Bethel to pronounce judgment against the man of God for his disobedience.
    2. God caused him to be eaten by a lion and the lion sat beside his donkey for all to see, and it was known that it was a sign from God.
    3. The old prophet gathered him up and buried him and wanted to be buried with him since he knew his message from God would come to pass.
15. Jer. 23:15-17, 20-22, 30-32, 40
    1. The false prophets in Jeremiah’s day said the right words, “Thus says the Lord,” but they lied in His name rather than prophesy truth.
    2. They would be punished, even the people that bought their lie*. (Mt. 15:13-14)*
16. Gal. 1:6-9
    1. If the message is different than God’s it doesn’t matter if someone claims it’s from an angel in the name of the Lord, it is a lie and is to be accursed! *(I Kings 13:21-22)*
17. II Pet. 3:3-9 (I Thess. 5:1-6)
    1. It happened then and happens now, “peace and safety!” and no care for the Judgment Day is given. *(Eph. 4:14-15: Not to be deceived by “every wind of doctrine!”)*
    2. We are to be different, to know truth from lie and be holy, and godly – II Pet. 3:11-12
18. God’s word will prevail over the conflicting voices – we need to know truth from lie!

### Conclusion

1. Voices in the world conflict with the voice of God:
   1. Baptism isn’t necessary to be saved (Faith only!) – Mk. 16:16; Heb. 5:9
   2. Attend the church of your choice; they’re all the same – Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4
   3. You can serve God as you please as long as it makes you happy – Mt. 7:21-23
2. Be cautious of conflicting voices!
   1. The man of God listened to the wrong voice & was punished for it. (I Kings 13:24)
   2. The people of Judah listened to the false prophets over Jeremiah & were destroyed (Jer. 52: 586 B.C.)
3. There’s a great day coming in which all men will be judged according to the gospel and regardless of the conflicting voices in the world, will be held accountable for their actions.
   1. *II Cor. 5:10:* All people will be judged for things they did, good or bad.
   2. *II Thess. 1:7-9:* God’s word will prevail over those who deny Him and do not obey Him!
4. Beware of conflicting voices & “hold fast” to “the word of truth!” *(I Cor. 15:1-2; Col.1:5)*
5. If not a Christian, you need to be. May the word of God provoke you to repent & be baptized!
6. If an erring child of God, be reconciled to Him by repenting of your sins and seek forgiveness!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be known ***NOW*** while we stand and sing!