



will punish us for our disobedience throughout eternity! Second, We need to always remember that God's Word is the final word. Regardless of what man has to say, we must understand that God's Word will judge us.

substitute for hearing and obeying the final standard, God's Word.

### What Do We Learn?

The two lessons mentioned above are valuable and important lessons we can learn from this biblical story. First, We need to always remember that God means business. Even if He doesn't strike us down the instant we sin, God

Christians are in much the same position as this young prophet. We have been given a message from the Lord that is complete in every respect (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jude 3). Our obligation is to follow that message despite all the noise going on around us (cf. Gal. 1:8-9). It is easy for us to come across an idea that an elder, preacher, teacher, or scholar promotes and accept it as God's Word. We must not be like the young prophet, but instead we must **"examine everything carefully"** (1 Thess. 5:21). Some hear new ideas from televangelists, self-help books, or favorite religious publications and quickly abandon what God has revealed to them through His written Word. Brethren, let's make it our habit to examine **"the Scriptures daily"** (Acts 17:11) and make it our aim to **"obey God rather than men"** (cf. Acts 5:29)!



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4700 Andrews Ave.  
Amarillo TX 79106  
806-352-2809  
www.olsenpark.com

## Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.

Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

17.23

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

June 14,  
2015

### Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

### Deacons:

Steve Dixon  
Ryan Ferguson  
Arend Gressley  
Ben Hight  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Blake McAlister  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Sam Nunn  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott  
Justin Smiley  
Trevor Yontz

### Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Andrew Dow



## A Tale of Two Prophets

By Andrew Dow

It was the worst of times! Rehoboam became king over Israel following the glorious reign of his father, Solomon. After King Rehoboam refused the advice of his wise counselors, **"none but the tribe of Judah followed the house of David"** (1 Kings 12:20, NASB). While Rehoboam unsuccessfully attempted to force the northern tribes into submission (1 Kings 12:21-24), Jeroboam became king over those northern tribes and constructed idols for his people to worship (1 Kings 12:25-33). This sharp division plagued the Kingdom that once thrived under the rule of David and Solomon. Thus a downward spiral began that would ultimately end in captivity.

As we turn to the thirteenth chapter of First Kings, we find **"a man of God"** traveling from Judah (the Southern Kingdom) to Bethel (the Northern Kingdom) in order to confront Jeroboam concerning his newly constructed idols (1 Kings 13:1-3). During this encounter, God displayed His power by withering and restoring Jeroboam's hand (1 Kings 13:4-6). The King was so impressed by this display that he asked the man of God to come into his home (1 Kings 13:7). The Prophet responded, **"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’**” (1 Kings 13:8-9). With these words, the man of God left the presence of King Jeroboam.

At this point, our story gets particularly interesting. The text introduces a new character to the story: **“Now an old prophet was living in Bethel”** (1 Kings 13:11a). This old prophet



found out about the exchange between King Jeroboam and the man of God, and he quickly went out to find his young counterpart (1 Kings 13:11b-14a). The prophet found him and invited him into his home, but the man of God reiterated the instructions he had received from God (1 Kings 13:14b-17). The old prophet lied to the young man, **“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’**” (1 Kings 13:18). Having heard the old prophet's words, the young prophet abandoned God's instructions, and followed the man home (1 Kings 13:19). At the home of this prophet, the Lord spoke again to the young man, but this time his message was one of condemnation (1 Kings 13:20-22). **“Now when he had gone, a lion met him on the way and killed him, and his body was thrown on the road”** (1 Kings 13:24).

### Why Did All of This Happen?

Why did the events of this story take place, and, perhaps more significantly, why are they recorded in Scripture? The events recounted above may seem troubling to some. Why did God send the young prophet on this journey? Why did the old prophet tempt the young prophet to disobey the Lord by lying to him? The young prophet was obviously misinformed, why did God see fit to punish him so severely? Why is the old prophet not punished like the young prophet? These kinds of questions are worthwhile questions to consider. I will not pretend to possess all the answer to these questions, but let me suggest two things along these lines.

First, perhaps these events transpired to show the absolute authority and seriousness of God's word. God had sent this prophet to condemn the idolatrous worship that Jeroboam was setting up in the Northern Kingdom. He had given him very precise instructions (cf. 1 Kings 13:9, 17), just like He had offered Israel precise instructions on how to worship (see Exodus-Deuteronomy). As Jeroboam and the Northern Kingdom were deviating from God's instructions, God demonstrated through this unfortunate situation that He expects His people to follow His commands. After the young prophet's death we read, **“And behold, men passed by and saw the body thrown on the road”** (1 Kings 13:25). It is almost as if this young prophet's body is left as a monument for all to see the authority and the seriousness of God's instructions. Later we find the words of the old prophet, **“the things 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”** (1 Kings 13:32). Even the old prophet recognized that God's word is authoritative and would be accomplished! The chapter ends by pointing out that **“Jeroboam did not return from his evil way”** (1 Kings 13:33-34). If God punished the young prophet for a seemingly trivial disobedience, how much more would Jeroboam and Israel be punished for abandoning the Law of God?

Second, perhaps these events came about to demonstrate that God's Word was the final standard,

even above the wisdom of old age. This event provides an interesting contrast to Rehoboam's downfall in chapter twelve. After consulting both young men and old men, **“the king... forsook the advice of the elders which they had given him”** (1 Kings 12:13). In this instance, it was wrong for Rehoboam to refuse the wisdom of the aged men. The very next chapter introduces us to **“an old prophet”** (1 Kings 13:11). Of course, as we pointed out, this old prophet led the young man of God to act contrary to God's instructions. In this instance, then, it was wrong for the young prophet to accept the foolishness of the aged prophet. Perhaps this is the point: listen to God above EVERYONE else. Sometimes (if not most times) it is advantageous to hear and obey the wisdom that accompanies old age, but there is absolutely no