

# Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 11.3, 1 Kings 12-13, Part 3 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

## 1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 11.3, 1 Kings 12-13, Part 3, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture analyzes 1 Kings 13, focusing on a man of God from Judah who delivers a prophecy against Jeroboam's altar in Bethel. The account highlights Jeroboam's lack of repentance despite witnessing God's power and grace. **Oswalt emphasizes the man of God's initial obedience, followed by his tragic disobedience after being deceived by an old prophet.** The lecture underscores that open doors aren't always God's will and stresses the importance of seeking God's guidance. **Oswalt draws parallels between the characters and broader themes of judgment, obedience, and the consequences of straying from God's path, ultimately connecting it to the fate of Judah and Israel.** The lecture closes with a prayer, seeking guidance and strength to stand firm in faith.

**2. 14 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 11.3 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).**



**Oswalt\_Kings\_Sessi  
on11\_3.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 11.3, 1 Kings 12-13, Part 3

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. Oswalt's lecture on 1 Kings 12-13:

#### Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 1 Kings 12-13 (Part 3)

**Source:** Excerpts from "Oswalt\_Kings\_EN\_Session11\_3.pdf"

#### Main Themes:

- **Obedience vs. Disobedience and Repentance:** The central narrative revolves around obedience to God's direct commands, the consequences of disobedience, and the importance of genuine repentance. The contrast between the "man of God" from Judah and Jeroboam highlights these themes.
- **God's Sovereignty and Foreknowledge:** Oswalt emphasizes God's complete control and knowledge of the future. He uses the prophecy of Josiah (300 years in the future) as a prime example.
- **The Danger of Open Doors Without Seeking God's Guidance:** A key takeaway is that just because an opportunity (an "open door") presents itself doesn't mean it's God's will. The man of God's lapse in judgment underscores the need to seek God's guidance in all decisions.
- **Judgment and Accountability:** Oswalt stresses that even if judgment is delayed, it *will* come. He warns against complacency when consequences aren't immediate. He contrasts how judgment is applied between those close to God, and those far away, suggesting that those who have a relationship with God (like the Pharisees during Jesus' time) are held to a higher standard.
- **The Influence of Unrighteousness:** The lecture concludes by drawing parallels between the situation in 1 Kings and the division of Israel and Judah. It warns that even a more righteous group (Judah) can be led astray by following a less righteous one (Israel).

#### Key Ideas and Facts:

- **The Unnamed Man of God:** The man of God from Judah, sent to Bethel, is described using terminology associated with Elijah and Elisha: someone "appointed by God," "filled with God," and committed to God's purposes.

- **Jeroboam's Defiance:** Jeroboam, despite witnessing a divine miracle (his hand withering and then being restored), refuses to repent and continues his idolatrous practices. As Oswalt states, "Wouldn't you think in a moment like that, Jeroboam would say, oh God, forgive me... No repentance."
- **Prophecy of Josiah:** The man of God prophesies that a future king named Josiah will desecrate the altar at Bethel by sacrificing the priests of the high places and burning human bones. This event is predicted to occur roughly 300 years later, showcasing God's long-term plan and foreknowledge. "A son of David named Josiah. Is going to desecrate this altar with the bodies...Of those priests who served on it through the years."
- **Disobedience of the Man of God:** Despite initially obeying God's command not to eat or drink in Bethel, the man of God is deceived by an "old prophet" and disobeys, leading to his death by a lion. Oswalt highlights the man's failure to seek God's guidance, stating, "He doesn't say to God. Is this a true prophet? He doesn't ask God, have you altered your will?"
- **The Role of the "Old Prophet":** Oswalt speculates that the old prophet is a "professional" who is jealous of the man of God, and thus deceives him with a false prophecy.
- **Delayed Judgment:** Oswalt points out that the "old liar" is seemingly unpunished, to make the point that judgement, even when delayed, still comes. "God's mills grind very slowly. But they grind very fine."
- **Proximity to God and Accountability:** Oswalt uses the example of Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees and Sadducees to illustrate that those who are closer to God are held to a higher standard. The man of God had a "terrible responsibility," because "to whom much is given, much is required."
- **Warning for Judah:** Oswalt concludes by drawing a parallel between the early division of Israel and Judah and the situation presented in the text. Just as the man from Judah listening to the man from Israel was disastrous, Judah must remain faithful to God or face the same fate as the Northern Kingdom. "If Judah should listen to Israel, then Judah's destruction is as sure as Israel's."

### Quotes:

- "This is a man who has been appointed by God. This is a man who has been filled with God." (Describing the man of God)
- "Wouldn't you think in a moment like that, Jeroboam would say, oh God, forgive me... No repentance." (On Jeroboam's lack of remorse)
- "A son of David named Josiah. Is going to desecrate this altar with the bodies...Of those priests who served on it through the years." (Prophecy of Josiah)
- "He doesn't say to God. Is this a true prophet? He doesn't ask God, have you altered your will?" (On the man of God's disobedience)
- "God's mills grind very slowly. But they grind very fine." (On delayed judgment)
- "To whom much is given, much is required." (Regarding the man of God's responsibility)
- "If Judah should listen to Israel, then Judah's destruction is as sure as Israel's." (Concluding warning)

### Implications:

This lecture serves as a cautionary tale about the importance of unwavering obedience to God, the need for genuine repentance, and the dangers of relying on outward appearances without seeking divine guidance. It also emphasizes God's sovereignty and the certainty of future judgment, even if it is delayed.

## 4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 11.2, 1 Kings 12-13, Part 2

### Study Guide: 1 Kings 13 - Obedience, Disobedience, and Divine Justice

#### I. Key Themes

- **Obedience vs. Disobedience:** The passage highlights the importance of complete and unwavering obedience to God's specific commands. It contrasts the initial obedience of the man of God from Judah with his subsequent disobedience.
- **Repentance:** The absence of genuine repentance in Jeroboam, despite experiencing a miraculous intervention, is a central concern. It emphasizes the importance of turning away from sin, not just seeking temporary relief from consequences.
- **Divine Sovereignty and Justice:** The narrative underscores God's absolute control over events and His eventual justice. Even though judgment may be delayed, it is certain to come.
- **Discernment:** The story emphasizes the need for discernment and seeking God's guidance, especially when presented with seemingly convenient or appealing opportunities that contradict prior instructions.
- **Accountability:** The passage suggests a higher level of accountability for those who are closer to God or in positions of spiritual leadership.
- **Warning Against Influence:** The passage warns against the potential danger of being influenced by those who are on the wrong path.

#### II. Character Analysis

- **Man of God from Judah:** Initially obedient and faithful, he delivers God's message to Jeroboam. He later disobeys God's command by accepting hospitality from the old prophet, leading to his death.
- **Jeroboam:** The king of Israel is defiant and unrepentant despite witnessing God's power. He remains committed to his idolatrous practices.
- **Old Prophet from Bethel:** A deceptive figure who lies to the man of God from Judah, leading him to disobey God's command. His motivations are unclear, but likely stem from jealousy or a desire for recognition.
- **God:** God is presented as sovereign, just, merciful, and aware of the future.

### III. Structural Breakdown

- **Verses 1-10:** The man of God delivers God's prophecy against Jeroboam's altar in Bethel. Jeroboam's hand is withered, then healed through the man of God's intercession. Jeroboam invites the man of God to eat, but he refuses.
- **Verses 11-19:** An old prophet in Bethel hears of the man of God's deeds. He lies, claiming an angel told him to bring the man of God back for hospitality.
- **Verses 20-32:** The man of God, deceived, returns with the old prophet and eats. God pronounces judgment through the old prophet on the man of God. He is killed by a lion on his way back.
- **Verses 33-34:** Jeroboam continues his wicked practices, and the chapter concludes by stating this led to his house's destruction.

### IV. Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. What specific prophecy does the man of God deliver against the altar in Bethel, and what sign accompanies it?
2. How does Jeroboam react to the prophecy, and what is the immediate consequence of his action?
3. Why does the man of God initially refuse Jeroboam's invitation to eat with him?
4. How does the old prophet deceive the man of God from Judah?
5. What is the consequence of the man of God's disobedience?
6. According to Oswalt, what key element is missing from Jeroboam's response to God's mercy?
7. What does Oswalt suggest is the motivation of the old prophet in deceiving the man of God?
8. What does Oswalt mean when he says that "God's mills grind very slowly, but they grind very fine?"
9. According to Oswalt, why might God have judged the man of God from Judah more harshly than the old prophet of Bethel?
10. What overall lesson regarding the two nations, Judah and Israel, does Oswalt derive from this chapter?

### V. Quiz Answer Key

1. The prophecy is that a son named Josiah will be born to the house of David and will sacrifice the priests of the high places on the altar. The sign is that the altar will split apart, and the ashes will be poured out.
2. Jeroboam attempts to seize the man of God. His hand is immediately withered, rendering him unable to pull it back.
3. The man of God refuses because he has been commanded by the Lord not to eat, drink, or return by the same way he came.
4. The old prophet lies, claiming an angel told him that God had changed his mind and wanted the man of God to return and eat with him.
5. The man of God is killed by a lion on his way back home, fulfilling the prophecy delivered by the old prophet.
6. Oswalt states that Jeroboam shows no repentance. He does not use God's mercy as an opportunity to turn away from his sin.
7. Oswalt suggests that the old prophet might have been motivated by jealousy or a desire to regain importance or recognition in his profession.
8. This saying means that although judgment may not come immediately after sin, it is inevitable and will eventually come to pass.
9. Oswalt suggests the man of God was judged more harshly because he was closer to God and held to a higher standard of accountability. He also suggests that the old prophet was so far from God that judgment wasn't immediately relevant.
10. Oswalt says that Judah, at this point, is more righteous than Israel, but if Judah listens to Israel, Judah's destruction is assured as well.

## **VI. Essay Questions**

1. Discuss the significance of obedience and disobedience in 1 Kings 13. How does the story of the man of God from Judah illustrate the consequences of both?
2. Analyze the character of Jeroboam in 1 Kings 13. What does his response to God's intervention reveal about his relationship with God and his leadership of Israel?
3. Explore the role of deception in 1 Kings 13. How does the old prophet's lie contribute to the tragic outcome, and what lessons can be drawn from this incident?

4. Explain the concept of divine justice as it is portrayed in 1 Kings 13. How does the chapter demonstrate God's sovereignty, even in the face of delayed judgment?
5. In what ways, according to Oswalt, does this chapter highlight the idea of accountability and the dangers that come with the position of spiritual leadership?

## VII. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Man of God:** A term used to describe a prophet or individual who is specially appointed and empowered by God to deliver His message.
- **Prophet:** An individual who speaks on behalf of God, often delivering messages of warning, judgment, or hope.
- **Altar:** A structure used for offering sacrifices or worshiping a deity.
- **Bethel:** A city in the northern kingdom of Israel, which became a center of idolatrous worship under Jeroboam.
- **Jeroboam:** The first king of the northern kingdom of Israel after the kingdom divided. He established idolatrous worship with golden calves.
- **Josiah:** A future king of Judah who would destroy the altar in Bethel, fulfilling the prophecy given in 1 Kings 13.
- **Repentance:** A turning away from sin and a commitment to following God's will.
- **Intercede:** To plead on behalf of another, often in prayer.
- **Discernment:** The ability to distinguish between truth and falsehood, or to make wise decisions based on spiritual insight.
- **Sovereignty:** God's ultimate authority and control over all things.
- **Pharisees:** A Jewish sect known for their strict adherence to religious laws and traditions.
- **Sadducees:** A Jewish sect known for their association with the temple and their rejection of certain religious beliefs, such as the resurrection.



## **5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 11.2, 1 Kings 12-13, Part 3, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)**

### **What was the significance of the unnamed "man of God" in 1 Kings 13?**

The "man of God" was significant because he was divinely appointed and filled with God's spirit, similar to prophets like Elijah and Elisha. He delivered a prophetic message against Jeroboam's altar in Bethel, predicting its desecration by Josiah and demonstrating God's power through the withering of Jeroboam's hand and the splitting of the altar. He represents someone who is initially obedient to God's direct commands.

### **What was Jeroboam's reaction to the sign from God, and what does it reveal about his character?**

Despite witnessing a miraculous sign of God's power and the fulfillment of the prophecy, Jeroboam did not repent. Instead, he invited the man of God to dine with him and receive a gift. This reveals his lack of genuine remorse and his continued rejection of God's authority, highlighting a pattern of prioritizing personal comfort over spiritual correction.

### **What was the specific command given to the man of God, and why was it important?**

The man of God was commanded not to eat or drink in Bethel and to return by a different route. This command served as a test of his obedience and a symbolic separation from the idolatrous practices of the Northern Kingdom. It underscored the importance of strict adherence to God's instructions, even in seemingly minor details.

### **What role did the old prophet play in the story, and what was his motivation?**

The old prophet, a resident of Bethel, lied to the man of God, claiming an angel had instructed him to bring the man back to his house for a meal. His motivation seems to stem from a desire to connect with and perhaps learn from the man of God, whom he views as gifted in his "profession" of prophecy. It is implied that he is a professional prophet who may practice divination.

**What was the man of God's fatal mistake, and what does it teach about discerning God's will?**

The man of God's fatal mistake was disobeying God's initial command by accepting the old prophet's invitation to eat and drink. This teaches that just because an opportunity arises or a "door opens" does not automatically mean it is God's will. It underscores the need to continuously seek God's guidance and discernment, even when circumstances seem convenient or appealing. He failed to ask God if the new message from the old prophet was legitimate.

**Why was the man of God punished so severely, while the lying old prophet seemed to escape judgment?**

The man of God was punished because he had a direct relationship with God and a specific command that he knowingly disobeyed. The old prophet, being further from God and potentially already outside of God's grace, wasn't subject to the same immediate consequences. The principle at play is that "to whom much is given, much is required." Those closer to God are held to a higher standard.

**What does the story of the man of God and the old prophet illustrate about the relationship between Judah and Israel?**

The man of God from Judah represents the more righteous kingdom of Judah, while the old prophet from Bethel represents the idolatrous Northern Kingdom of Israel. The story illustrates that while Judah is initially more aligned with God's will, they are vulnerable to corruption if they listen to and follow the ways of Israel, ultimately leading to their own destruction.

**What is the long-term perspective on God's justice demonstrated in this narrative?**

The narrative highlights that God's judgment may not be immediate but is certain to come. The prophecy about Josiah's desecration of the altar, fulfilled 300 years later, demonstrates that God's "mills grind slowly, but they grind very fine." Even if consequences are delayed, sin will eventually be judged, reinforcing the importance of continued faithfulness and obedience.