



FOUNTAIN OF HOSANNA CHURCH OF CHRIST

BIBLE STUDY SERIES: THE OLD PROPHETS (Part 3)

Tuesday, 26 February 2019

Key Scripture: Galatians 1:8 | **Central Text:** 1 Kings 13

Last Week

WE considered the key characters in the Central Text and some of the Characteristics of Old Prophets as – (i) **Becoming** insensitive to the move of God and (ii) **Resting** after the test.

Characteristics of Old Prophets (cont'd)

3. Assuming the place and presence of God

The Old Prophet had believed that Bethel would naturally command God's presence. Yes, but this will happen when righteousness is exalted – Proverbs 14:35. Elijah and Elisha were prophets of God in Israel, but only specific persons got their miracles – Luke 4:25-27.

A man may die in God's presence but not in the Lord.

Consider these questions:

- i. Why would the wine suddenly finish at the party with Jesus being around? John 2:1-12
- ii. Why should there be storm in the same boat Jesus was? Mark 4:36-41
- iii. Why were the Israelites defeated despite the Ark of God in their camp? Joshua 7:1-5

4. Being used to (accustomed to) God's Work and Wonders

Familiarity breeds contempt; irreverence is a derivative of frequency, but this should not be so - Proverbs 25:17 - *Don't visit friends too often, or they will get tired of it and start hating you* – CEV.

Traditionally, instructions will come from the resident 'senior' Prophet in the land, but this was not the case in Bethel when God bypassed the Old Prophet without his awareness! "*Which way did he go?*"... "*Quick, saddle the donkey,*"... 1 Kings 13:12-14. He saw this as an insult to his person and office – mere ego and pride! What an empty boasting!

Recall these instances:

- i. **Zedekiah** - a false prophet had assumed victory for the king - 1 Kings 22:24
- ii. **Samson** – he was used to victory and was unguarded - Judges 16:19-21.
- iii. **Moses** – so accustomed to God's miracles but did contrarily at a time. With his rod - 1st time, he smote the river (Exodus 14:16;17:5b). 2nd time, he struck the rock once – Exodus 17:6. 3rd time, he struck the rock instead of commanding the rock – Numbers 20:9-13.
- iv. **David** – in 1 Chronicles 21:1-4a he took census of Israel and led them into sin – vs 7.
- v. **Samuel** – he assumed God's choice of a King among Jesse's 8 sons – 1 Samuel 16:6-7



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5. Enjoying and cherishing recognition from and approval of men

Facts and figures often pronounce our ego and strong points; they becloud who we should be rather than who we are - Proverbs 27:2.

Hypocrisy is all about me and none about you; what I am and not what I ought to be.

Jesus Christ explains this in Matthew 23:1-12. Recall the Old Prophet's comment - 1 Kings 13:18a ... *the Old Prophet answered, "I am a Prophet, too, just as you are...* This is one simple test of our humility in Christ when men pay little or no notice to our 'hard-earned' status, titles or appellations especially before others. However, honour must be given to whom it is due. Read Romans 13:7e; Leviticus 19:32 and 1 Timothy 5:17 – double honour.

Examine your inward attitudes at instances at:

- i. When called to the high table for presentation,
- ii. When introduced to a friend or family members,
- iii. When addressed by men in a speech,
- iv. When contacted for assistance,
- v. When greeted by an old pal,
- vi. When identified as the key contributor.

Conclusion

A good fruit can only come from a good tree, *in the same way; you will know these false Prophets by what they do* - Matthew 7:20 NCV. Like Paul, the Apostle, we should rather pray that after [we had] preached to others, [we] will not be disqualified for the prize - 1 Corinthians 9:27. We sincerely pray that we will not be clouded by our attainments and achievements in Christ, Amen.

The study continues next week, and we shall discuss the **Missions of the Old Prophets**. Plan to attend promptly and with someone. Let us Pray.