



FOUNTAIN OF HOSANNA CHURCH OF CHRIST

BIBLE STUDY SERIES: THE OLD PROPHETS (Part 4)

Tuesday, 26 February 2019

Key Scripture: Galatians 5:13

Central Text: 1 Kings 13

Introduction

STUDYING the characteristic features of the Old Prophets has given us more insight into who these men are. Their complete trait catalogue cannot be fully discussed in this study, but we rely on the Spirit of the Lord through His Word to help us quickly identify the craftiness that may be proposed to us. We should also search ourselves if there are tendencies to unconsciously demonstrate any of the traits and ask for help from above.

The presence of Elders in the Church should be an advantage rather than a thorn in the flesh to the growing Christians, but alas there is a paradox lifestyle in what is said and what is demonstrated. What a society! Let us x-ray some major missions of the Old Prophets as seen in our daily lives. This shall give us better insights into the antics and the game plans of the seemingly 'Old Prophets' amidst us.

Last Week

WE considered some of the Characteristics of Old. Another feature is -

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,



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- 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.

Missions of the Old Prophets

1. To mislead young converts

Recall the caution to us about erroneous doctrines in Galatians 1:8-9. The young convert is not permitted to have 'sensitive' assignments in the Church - 1 Timothy 3:6 - *The pastor must not be a new Christian because he might be proud of being chosen so soon, and pride comes before a fall. (Satan's downfall is an example.)* TLB.

Note the trick – first, the Old Prophet called the young Prophet – Man of God (verse 14) and later 'promoted' him to a Prophet (verse 18a). An encounter with an Angel in those days was equal to meeting God cf. Judges 13:22. This was the Old Prophet's trick - *an angel gave me this message from the LORD...* verse 18b.

The young man was found sitting under an oak tree – verse 14. Christian seek ye not repose – watch and pray. Obviously, the Old Prophet was the man's 'in-house' (household) enemy – read Matthew 23:15. Jesus Christ was also tempted by the Devil and left for a while – Luke 4:13.

Caution Notes

1. Do not modify your assignment details – always follow instructions – verse 14.
2. Do not give heed to other voice outside God's voice especially when the mandate is very clear – 2 John 10.
3. Do not use common sense to do God's Work but be spiritual -1 Corinthians 2:14-15 and John 6:63

We shall dig into the study further next week. Pray, Plan and Participate. Let us Pray.