



# FOUNTAIN OF HOSANNA CHURCH OF CHRIST

## BIBLE STUDY SERIES: THE OLD PROPHETS (Part 5)

Tuesday, 12 March 2019

**Key Scripture:** Galatians 5:13

**Central Text:** 1 Kings 13

### Last Week

**THE** study on the missions of the Old Prophets began and we discussed one of them – To mislead young converts.

### Today

**LET** us review some of the questions and assignments from last week study before today's lesson.

### Missions of the Old Prophets ...

#### 2. To create the fear of man in place of the fear of God

Up till the time of the prophecy against the altar in Bethel, the old prophet was the symbol of authority. He had his sons everywhere in the land to feed him back and possibly use the 'info' to deliver speeches in the name of 'prophecy' - 1 Kings 13:11. This was unlike Elisha who needed not be with the Arameans to know their plots against Israel – 2 kings 6:8-23. The Arameans testified to the omnipresence of God – 2 Kings 6:12.

***The fear of God does not make us become afraid of God but gives us boldness***

When such 'Old Prophets' speak, they speak so convincingly to create an atmosphere of all-knowing around their audiences. This is mere manipulation so beware!

- **Caution Note**

The man of God feared and believed in the Old Prophet more than God's Words.

#### 3. To celebrate past victories as the ultimate achievements

Jesus, in his earthly ministry, went everywhere and doing good – Acts 10:38. He cautioned against celebrating his 'mega' miracle – John 6:26, but assured them of greater miracle than his – John 14:12. Old Prophets prefer to recount and celebrate the past glorious years of their achievements; nothing new in them again! Such concepts often produce complacency and limitations.



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***Victories of yesterday should turn to praises for greater victory tomorrow***

David rather recounted his past victories to achieve the present victory – 1 Samuel 17:34-37. God's goodness is always new every day, so celebrate today's goodness for greater mercies tomorrow. There is always a higher level – Psalm 84:7.

- **Caution Note**

The man of God 'recognised' the Old Prophet in the land and believed his testimony! He probably was enjoying the tales of past victories and prophecies from the Old Prophet which eventually drifted his foundation away from the truth to fables - 2 Timothy 4:4 - *And they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables.*

#### **4. To terminate bright visions (star and glory) – Ephesians 4:14**

The old prophet saw himself as the ultimate visionary in the land and any upcoming bright 'visions' would be cunningly suppressed. Recall Eliab's over-reaction to David at the war zone – 1 Samuel 17:28 and his previous rejection by God – 1 Samuel 16:7.

Likewise, the old prophet knew the interpretation and implications of the prophecies and signs from the man of God from Judah. Just like Joseph's brothers in Genesis 37:20. This was why he ensured that the young prophet worked against his vision – he went back the way he came and ate while being monitored! 1 Kings 13:19 NCV – *So the man of God went to the old prophet's house, and he ate and drank with him there.*

- **Caution Note**

The man of God shared his entire mission and vision with the old prophet. His bright destiny was exchanged for a soon-to-fade version! Did he have to narrate all the details to the old prophet? Read 2 Kings 20:12-18 and Luke 2:19

### **Next Week**

We shall conclude on the missions of the Old Prophets. God bless you and keep you from all evil. Trust to see you. Let us Pray.