

THE FALSE DIMENSION – LESSON 34(ABC)

READ 1 KINGS 13

EXPLAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRUE AND FALSE DIMENSION AS EXEMPLIFIED IN THE LIVES OF THE YOUNG PROPHET AND THE OLD PROPHET.

THE FALSE DIMENSION – ANSWERS (LESSON 34 ABC)

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRUE DIMENSION

1. SENT BY GOD

1King 13:1

And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.(NKJ)

2. CARRIES THE WORD OF THE LORD

1King 13:2

Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.'(NKJ)

3. ATTACKS THE ALTAR NOT THE PERSON

1King 13:2

Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.'"(NKJ)

4. CONFRONTATIONAL

1King 13:1

And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.(NKJ)

5. THE WORD DOES NOT RETURN VOID

2 Chr 34:1-5

- 1 *Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.*
- 2 *And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.*

3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images.

4 They broke down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and the incense altars which were above them he cut down; and the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images he broke in pieces, and made dust of them and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.

5 He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.(NKJ)

6. IS OPPRESSED FOR REFORMATION (ALIGNMENT)

1King 13:4

So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Arrest him!" Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself.(NKJ)

7. IS ACCEPTED FOR MANIFESTATION

1King 13:5-7

5 The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

6 Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please entreat the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before.

7 Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward."(NKJ)

8. DEMONSTRATES GRACE TO THE OPPRESSOR

1King 13:4-6

4 So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Arrest him!" Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself.

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6 Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please entreat the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before.(NKJ)

9. RESOLVES TO OBEY GOD

1King 13:7-10

7 Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward."

8 But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place.

9 "For so it was commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came.'"
10 So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel.(NKJ)

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FALSE DIMENSION

1. VALIDATION BY EXISTENCE IN THE “NOW”.

1King 13:11

Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; they also told their father the words which he had spoken to the king.(NKJ)

THE FALSE DIMENSION LIVES IN THE NOW, NOT JUST IN THE PAST.

2. VALIDATION BY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

The old prophet lived in Bethel.

Bethel had a colourful history.

- Abraham pitched his tent and built an altar there.

Gen 12:8

And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.(NKJ)

- This was the place where Jacob saw angels ascending and descending.

Gen 28:12-19

12 Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.
13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.
14 "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
15 "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."
16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."
17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"
18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.
19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.(NKJ)

- Jacob built an altar there.

Gen 35:1

Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."(NKJ)

Gen 35:7

And he built an altar there and called the place El Bethel, because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother.(NKJ)

Bethel's past history gave it instant credibility.

Jeroboam seized Bethel because of its past history and set up calf worship. Bethel now rivalled the temple in Jerusalem.

The old prophet lived in Bethel. He gained credibility through historical association.

The false dimension gains credibility through historical association. It links itself with a church that God once used mightily. It uses history to validate itself. It makes historical association greater than the present reality.

If your church has a successful past history, it is going to attract the false dimension.

3. VALIDATION BY TITULAR AUTHORITY.

1King 13:18

He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, 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.'" (He was lying to him.)(NKJ)

The young prophet was not seduced by the king, altar, food, incense or the calf but by a prophet who claimed to be like him.

The young prophet did not know that evil could operate in someone with identical qualifications.

The false dimension uses externals for validity – titles, dress code(e.g. collar), etc (Titular authority is a sign of insecurity of the call of God. It could signify invalidity.)

4. VALIDATION BY FABRICATION.

1King 13:18

He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, 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.'" (He was lying to him.)(NKJ)

The old prophet lied to gain credibility. He engaged the young prophet on a familiar frequency. He knew that the young prophet was operating on a manifestation frequency – hence his lie had to be at a supernatural level - an angel spoke to me.

HE LIED TO GET THE TRUTH INTO HIS HOUSE.

5. VALIDATION BY ACCURATE PROPHETIC UTTERANCES

1King 13:20-24

20 Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back;

21 and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have disobeyed the word of the LORD, and have not kept the commandment which the LORD your God commanded you,

22 'but you came back, ate bread, and drank water in the place of which the LORD said to you, "Eat no bread and drink no water," your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers."

23 So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, the prophet whom he had brought back.

24 When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse.(NKJ)

The old prophet prophesied accurately. Accurate prophetic utterances can issue forth from the false dimension.

- FALSE MESSENGERS WITH ACCURATE DECLARATIONS.

Matt 24:5

"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.
(NKJ)

- SAUL PROPHESED

1 Sam 10:11

And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, "What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets? (NKJ)

- EVEN A DONKEY CAN BE ACCURATE.

Num 22:28-31

28 Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

29 And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"

30 So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No."

31 Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.

(NKJ)

6. VALIDATION BY DISCREDITATION.

I King 13:24-26

24 When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse.

25 And there, men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road, and the lion standing by the corpse. Then they went and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

26 Now when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard it, he said, "It is the man of God who was disobedient to the word of the LORD. Therefore the

LORD has delivered him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke to him."(NKJ)

The young prophet walked into the temple, cursed the altar and left. Later he was killed by a lion. No one knew of the old prophet's role in the death of the young prophet. All they saw was the old prophet's hospitality.

The people would conclude that the young prophet died because he cursed the altar – God punished him.

By orchestrating the death of the young prophet, the old prophet discredited the young prophet and maintained his stature in Bethel.

7. VALIDATION BY EXTERNAL MANIFESTATION.

1King 13:29-30

29 And the prophet took up the corpse of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back. So the old prophet came to the city to mourn, and to bury him.

30 Then he laid the corpse in his own tomb; and they mourned over him, saying, "Alas, my brother!"(NKJ)

The old prophet demonstrated Christian hospitality(though he knew that in this situation it was contrary to the will of God). He openly mourned for the young prophet calling him his brother.

8. VALIDATION BY PHYSICAL ASSOCIATION.

1King 13:31

So it was, after he had buried him, that he spoke to his sons, saying, "When I am dead, then bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones.(NKJ)

Years later the prophecy of the young prophet is fulfilled. People would want to visit the tomb of this accurate prophet who called Josiah by name. They would find the bones of the old prophet next to the young prophet. They would conclude that the bones of the old prophet were placed next to the young prophet because he was his mentor.

The old prophet knew that he could only be bone beside bone – never “bone of bone”. The false dimension wants to be in the same location(tomb) as the true.

SAUL WANTED VALIDATION THROUGH SAMUEL'S PRESENCE.

1 Sam 15:28-31

28 So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.

29 "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent."

30 Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God."

31 So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.(NKJ)

PURPOSE OF THE FALSE DIMENSTION

1. VALIDATION OF ERROR BY SILENCE

1King 13:11

Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; they also told their father the words which he had spoken to the king.(NKJ)

The old prophet's sons were eye witnesses to the events transpiring in the temple.

There is a high probability that his sons were servicing the altar. There is no record that

the old prophet ever spoke against the altar in Bethel. His silence must be taken as acceptance of the altar. He probably sent his sons to do his dirty work, so that he could protect his credibility.

Eli's silence validated his sons.

David had never rebuked Adonijah – Adonijah accepted this as validation.

The image of jealousy in the temple(Ezekiel 8) – the silence of the priesthood and the people must be taken as acceptance.

THE FALSE DIMENSION VALIDATES ERROR.

2. TRANSGENERATIONAL PERPETUATION OF ERROR

1King 13:33-34

33 After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places; whoever wished, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

34 And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, so as to exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth.(NKJ)

After the splitting of the altar and the healing of his hand, Jeroboam would probably have changed. But the death of the young prophet would have been construed as judgement by God for “desecrating” the altar. The young prophet’s discreditation appeared to validate Jeroboam’s ways – hence Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way.

His way became a pattern for others – known as the way of Jeroboam.

1King 15:34

He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.(NKJ)

1King 16:2

"Inasmuch as I lifted you out of the dust and made you ruler over My people Israel, and you have walked in the way of Jeroboam, and have made My people Israel sin, to provoke Me to anger with their sins,(NKJ)

1King 16:19

because of the sins which he had sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he had committed to make Israel sin.(NKJ)

1King 22:52

He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; (NKJ)