



Lies

Don't expect anything good to ever come out of lies no matter the source. Live in strict accordance to God's Word and, thereby, walk in trust and safety with absolute freedom.

(John 8:31-32) Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; {32} And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

When you continue in God's Word, you have the right to be called a disciple, or follower. It is only then that you shall know the truth. When you know the truth, freedom is the next and most



immediate progression. Expect it!

Lies will force you onto the most devious of life's pathways.

Lies never comfort; they steal, kill and eventually destroy.

Deny the source of lies and lay claim to godliness.

Well-meaning believers, prophets, leaders, disciples, priests, guardians of the mystery, and an unending host of others, may appear genuine. But, if they,

in ANY WAY, attempt to distort your progression towards your heavenly calling, they are to be avoided at all costs. It is up to you to know God's Word and refuse their company, AT ALL TIMES, if you are aware of their lies.

A certain man of God refused to abide by God's Word, and lost his life because he believed a lie instead of God's Word.

(1 Ki 13) And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

Jeroboam was the king and he was an evil king. God sent the man of God to confront the

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king in an attempt to get him to change.

{2} And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. {3} And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.

You just read the prophecy given to the king by the man of God.

{4} And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against

the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.

No one was going to be allowed to touch the man of God. The king was so angry with the prophecy that he wanted to stop the man of God. When he tried to grab him, his hand dried up. He lost all mobility, so much so, that he couldn't pull it back into his body.

{5} The altar also was rent, 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.

At that moment, the prophecy came true. God's Words came true right before their very eyes.

{6} And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Entreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.

The mercy of the Lord poured out upon the evil king. Well, the king asked for help, even though he was evil and had attempted to do evil things to the man of God. God wanted this man to change. If a man is going to change, he has to desire it. *God can't change you if you don't want it.*

{7} And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward. {8} And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give

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me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: {9} For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.

The man of God revealed his guidance from God, specifically that he wasn't supposed to eat bread nor drink water in that place. He wasn't supposed to return home by the way he had arrived either. He refused the king's invitation.

{10} So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel.

Everything looks great so far. So far, he is obeying God's Word. I'm very proud of him. Imagine the pressure. The KING invited him to the palace; the man of God

refused because God had told him not to eat or drink there.

{11} Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.

Trouble entered with an old prophet in Bethel. Why did the old prophet get involved? The Word never says, but we can imagine some reasons.

{12} And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah. {13} And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon,

The old prophet, himself,

mounted an ass and went after the man of God. He wanted something.

{14} And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am.

He identified the man as the one after whom he sought.

{15} Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.

Then, he presented his case, a case built on lies determined to contradict God's Word. Pay attention. God

told the man of God to not eat or drink; the old prophet invited him to eat. Can you believe that the old prophet, probably respected by many, attempted to lure the

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man of God away from the trust and safety of God's Word?

{16} And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place: {17} For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.

So far, so good. Well, if the king's invitation didn't work, why should an old prophet's invitation work? Think about it. If a stranger asked you to do something, you'd be less pressed to accept. If another, of your kind, asked you to do something, the temptation would be far greater, especially if the person was particularly crafty.

{18} He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art;

and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him.

If we are tasked with discerning truth from error, we have to be able to ferret out lies from the garden of truth. Up to this point, there

was no doubt in the man of God's mind what God had said. Why should things change now? The old prophet dug really deeply into his dirty bag of tricks and pulled out an angel. Ha! An angel? Really? Is that all it took to turn the man of God? Let's see.

{19} So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water. {20} And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the

prophet that brought him back:

Oh, and by the way, don't forget this:

(Gal 1:8) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

The lure of food and drink, plus the pressure from a man seeming to be soooooo spiritual, was all that it took to refocus the man of God. God's Word was still true; don't eat or drink anything! The man's trust and believing in God's Word was what changed. He believed the old prophet--eat bread and drink water with me. That old man must have been very convincing; that old man must have been dabbling in the spiritual arts, black arts to have such persuasive power over a man of God. Don't think, for a minute, that well-meaning people, old

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prophets included, can't have their way with you. ***You must know God's Word and strictly follow it. Don't believe the lies!***

{21} And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee, {22} But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the LORD did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.

The old prophet, well-meaning, changed and allowed God to reveal the man of God's fate.

{23} And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back. {24} And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.

It was only a matter of time that the man of God met his demise. God promised what would happen. Do you think God wanted the man of God to die? No, he did not. But the land was so evil, and Israel was corrupt. It was so dangerous. The spiritual situation was dire. There was little to no safety and trust in God in the land. God provided a tight rope to the man of God, a narrow path of safety, complete with instruction on how to keep from falling. But, the man of God made his choice.

{25} And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. {26} And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him.

When I read verse 25 and 26, I am saddened. What good are words like that after the fact? They are no good at all.

{27} And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him. {28} And he went and found his carcase

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cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcase: the lion had not eaten the carcase, nor torn the ass.

This must have been an amazing sight. I wouldn't want to have been the man to go up to that lion in order to retrieve the man of God's body. Would you? But, what did that old prophet have to fear. His words were just as dangerous as the lion's teeth. He was quite used to such craftiness and seemed to have no fear.

{29} And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him.

I suppose that it was nice to have this mourning and such a beautiful epitaph, but was it really? The old prophet is the one who personally lured out the man

of God from a strict adherence to God's Word. I can't say that I'd want anything to do with that old prophet. If the old prophet was so spiritual and good, why didn't God have him go to the king? After all, he lived a lot closer and was already aware of the evil in the land.

{30} And he laid his carcase in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother! {31} And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones: {32} For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass. {33} After this

thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places. {34} And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.

Nothing that God orchestrated worked to prompt the evil king, Jeroboam, to change. *If someone is evil, you may never be able to do anything to get him to change.* That

person has to want to change. He has to seek out deliverance. More importantly, you must attune yourself to truth, strict adherence to truth, never allowing yourself to believe a lie. If you ever wonder, just follow God's Word written in the

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seven Church Epistles. It's pretty easy to tell if someone is asking you to do something contrary to those precious words of trust and safety.

Much love in Christ,

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