

THE ANATOMY OF A LIE

Introduction

- 1) The Bible teaches us to speak the truth and not lie to one another (Eph. 4:25)
- 2) God hates a “lying tongue” (Prov. 6:17; 12:19) and all liars will be punished (Rev. 21:8)
- 3) Believing a lie can lead to very serious consequences (Jer. 7:8; 2 Thess. 2:11-12)
- 4) **1 Kings 13** tells the sad story of a man of God who spoke the word of the Lord but met a tragic end due to believing a lie and disobeying God

I) **The Man of God’s Prophecy** (vv. 1-10)

- A) Comes from Judah and prophesies against Jeroboam and his idolatrous altar at Bethel
- B) Rightly refuses an invitation from Jeroboam because of a command God had given him
 - 1) Not eat bread, drink water, nor return by the same way he came

II) **Believing a Lie** (vv. 11-22)

- A) Old prophet of Bethel finds the man of God and invites him to his house to eat
 - 1) Man of God initially refuses again, citing God’s commandment
- B) Old prophet **lies** to him and the man then goes to his house to eat and drink
 - 1) Why the old prophet lied we do not know – anger? jealousy? dishonest?
- C) God speaks through the old prophet and condemns the man for his disobedience

III) **The Man of God’s Death** (vv. 23-32)

- A) Man of God killed by a lion on his return home
 - 1) Not an accident, but an act of God’s punishment (lion did not eat corpse or donkey)
- B) Old prophet mourns and buries the man, and tells his own sons to bury him beside the man of God

IV) **The Anatomy of the Lie** (v. 18)

- A) **“I too am a prophet as you are”**
 - 1) A true statement to establish common ground, familiarity, trust – cause defenses to drop
 - 2) None are as dangerous as those who would seem to be the most harmless (Matt. 7:15)
 - 3) Had refused to be taken in by evil Jeroboam (vv. 7-9); now taken in by fellow prophet!
 - 4) Man did not expect to be lied to by the old prophet – must not assume anything
- B) **“An angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord”**
 - 1) An appeal to divine authority – “An angel told me what God said!”
 - 2) Claims of a higher authority do not guarantee truth (Gal. 1:8)
 - 3) God’s word is settled in heaven – man cannot change it (Psa. 119:89; Rom. 3:4)
- C) **“Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water”**
 - 1) A lie = giving false information intending to deceive
 - 2) A reversal of the divine command should have alerted the man to investigate
 - 3) Should have checked with the Lord about the truthfulness of the old prophet’s message
 - 4) We must check all teaching by the standard of God’s word to protect our souls
 - 5) Being sincerely mistaken is still disobedience when we could have learned the truth!

Conclusion

Though this was a sad, tragic end of the man who disobeyed God, he is remembered many years later when his prophecy comes true in the days of king Josiah (2 Kgs. 23:15-18). We must buy the truth and sell it not (Prov. 23:23) and be steadfast in the faith (1 Pet. 5:9). If we love the **truth** we will not be deceived by the destructive **lies** of Satan.