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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1529 ~ Ahijah Prophecies Doom.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

A married man called his mother on the telephone. He asked her what did she want to hear first: the good news or the bad news? The mother sighed and said she'd better have the bad news. The son replied there was no bad news and proceeded on to tell her the good news. In today's *Bible Adventure* taken from 1 Kings, Chapter 13, there is a lot of bad news that was brought about by disobedience.

King Jeroboam of the northern kingdom of Israel was standing by an altar in Bethel's worship centre ready to illegally do a high priest's duties, when an unnamed prophet from Jerusalem spoke loudly toward the altar. This prophet of God predicted that the family of David would continue to support true religion into the future. But this was not what Jeroboam wanted to hear. Two young men who were present when the prophet spoke, rushed back to tell their father, an old prophet of Israel.

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The unnamed prophet's prophesy about the altar was fulfilled almost 300 years later. But sadly in our story, the unnamed prophet did not obey God after proclaiming his prophesy. God had ordered him not to eat and drink in Bethel. This was to show the people God's hatred over their idolatry and for their forsaking of Him. As believers in the Lord Jesus, we too are not to have fellowship with the works of this world's darkness.

The unnamed prophet got down from his donkey to rest under an oak tree when the old prophet caught up with him there. Bethel was only 12 miles north of Jerusalem and the unnamed prophet shouldn't have needed to stop before reaching there.

The old prophet told many lies to get the unnamed prophet to return with him to his house. This conduct shows that he was not really a godly man. But why did the old man do it? The old man was able to deceive the unnamed prophet with instructions that were contrary to God's. The unnamed prophet did not seek further any evidence that the old prophet was telling the truth. Today, believers too are most in danger of being drawn away from their duty by smooth pretences of holiness or who the messenger seems to be.

God severely punished the unnamed prophet for his disobedience whereas the deceitful old prophet did not seem to suffer a thing. We tend to think that because God's judgment did not fall immediately on the liar, he got away with it. It also may seem unfair. But remember: God's judgments are beyond any human understanding or reasoning and they are totally just. We know that there is yet one more judgment to come for people like the lying old man. In Psalm 37, it says: "Don't be worried on account of the wicked; don't be jealous of those who do wrong. They will soon disappear like the grass that dries up. Trust in the Lord and do good."

Where do you turn for help when a crisis arises in your family? A sick child is most distressing. Jeroboam knew that the idols he had been worshipping would not help him. So he and his wife devised a plan for her to disguise herself and visit the elderly prophet Ahijah, living 20 miles away to ask him for help. In this event, the sick child's name and the prophet's are very similar, so don't get confused. Ahijah was the prophet while Abijah was the sick child.

Even though Jeroboam's wife was disguised and the old prophet's eyesight was extremely poor, she did not fool him at all. The Lord had warned him in advance of her coming. Ahijah told her a series of bad news, firstly for herself and her sick child, then for her husband's family and finally, for the kingly role which would be taken away from Jeroboam's descendants and that all Israel would be punished.

These bad things were now to happen because Jeroboam set up a system of false religion based on worshipping idols that drew away his people away from worshipping God in Jerusalem in the correct way. Some people from the northern kingdom continued to obey God and repeatedly travelled south to worship at the Temple.

Why is God so completely against people worshipping idols? From the Bible book of Deuteronomy to the last book of Revelation, there are references to explain that at least one of Satan's fallen angels or demons is behind every idol. When people worship an idol, even if they do not realize it, they are really worshipping Satan, a counterfeit god and Almighty God's enemy. The day is coming when Satan, a created being, will be judged by the Lord Jesus Himself. But until that day, Satan tries to destroy everything that belongs to God, here on earth and in the heavenly realms.

God hates deceitfulness and deception. In Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 24, the Lord Jesus warned the people to be careful not to let anyone deceive them or lead them into error.

Let's focus now on some good news: God's throne room in heaven is open 24 hours a day every day of the year for those who have a personal relationship with Him. If someone is trying to deceive us or we have something troubling our minds, we are to go to God in faith and ask Him to reveal His will and truth to us. Sometimes a verse of Scripture will be brought to our attention. Or someone will speak words to answer what our prayers have asked.

There are some things, however, that are not for us to know. God will not tell us these. With regard to false prophets and deceivers, in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 7, the Lord Jesus said: "You will know them by what they do." Too often we listen to what deceivers are saying, when we should be looking at what type of fruit their lives are producing.

Access to God's throne room comes only through the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you know that the Lord Jesus was your substitute for punishment for all your sin when He died on a cruel Roman cross some 2,000 years ago? If you believe Jesus, the Son of God, is waiting to be your sin bearer, ask Him to be the Lord and Saviour of your life. If you have done this, spend much time learning who God is and what He intends to do in your life. Grow your relationship with God by reading the Bible, talking to God in prayer and worshipping Him with other believers. Also be thankful for all that Jesus has given you and remember the truths God is teaching you. Growing close to God will enable you to live a life of joy despite any troubles you might face in your circumstances.

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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