

## **The Old Prophet**

1 Kings 13:11-34

by Don Falkos

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An old prophet lived in Bethel. His son told him, "A man of God has just left for Judah. He prophesied against our priests and wrecked our altar. But he must have been from God because when the king's hand shriveled up, he healed it."

The old prophet rode off on his donkey and found the man of God. "Come home with me, and have something to eat."

"I can't. The Lord commanded me not to eat or drink anything while I'm here."

"I'm a prophet too, just like you. And the Lord's angel told me to take you to my home and give you food and drink." It was a lie. But the man of God went home with him and ate and drank.

Suddenly, the word of the Lord came to the old prophet, "This is what the Lord says: Because you disobeyed my command not to eat or drink in this place, you will die far from your own home."

The man of God started again toward Judah. Along the way, a lion attacked and killed him. His body was thrown down on the road. The lion did not attack the donkey, nor did he eat the man's body. Both the donkey and the lion just stood there beside the dead body.

News of what had happened reached the old prophet. He said, "It must be the man of God from Judah who disobeyed the Lord. So the Lord allowed a lion to kill him." He went out to retrieve the body and found the lion and the donkey still standing over it. The old prophet took the body back to Bethel. He laid the man of God in his own tomb and mourned over him.

He said to his sons, "When I die, bury me here with this man of God. He declared the word of the Lord, and everything he said will come true."