

Friday, June 14

**All passages taken from Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996.
Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189.
All rights reserved.**

1 Kings 12:20 - 13:34

12 20 When the people of Israel learned of Jeroboam's return from Egypt, they called an assembly and made him king over all Israel. So only the tribe of Judah remained loyal to the family of David. **21** When Rehoboam arrived at Jerusalem, he mobilized the men of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin—180,000 select troops—to fight against the men of Israel and to restore the kingdom to himself. **22** But God said to Shemaiah, the man of God, **23** "Say to Rehoboam son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the people of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, **24** 'This is what the LORD says: Do not fight against your relatives, the Israelites. Go back home, for what has happened is my doing!'" So they obeyed the message of the LORD and went home, as the LORD had commanded. **25** Jeroboam then built up the city of Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and it became his capital. Later he went and built up the town of Peniel. **26** Jeroboam thought to himself, "Unless I am careful, the kingdom will return to the dynasty of David. **27** When these people go to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices at the Temple of the LORD, they will again give their allegiance to King Rehoboam of Judah. They will kill me and make him their king instead." **28** So on the advice of his counselors, the king made two gold calves. He said to the people, "It is too much trouble for you to worship in Jerusalem. Look, Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of Egypt!" **29** He placed these calf idols in Bethel and in Dan—at either end of his kingdom. **30** But this became a great sin, for the people worshiped the idols, traveling as far north as Dan to worship the one there. **31** Jeroboam also erected buildings at the pagan shrines and ordained priests from the common people—those who were not from the priestly tribe of Levi. **32** And Jeroboam instituted a religious festival in Bethel, held on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in imitation of the annual Festival of Shelters in Judah. There at Bethel he himself offered sacrifices to the calves he had made, and he appointed priests for the pagan shrines he had made. **33** So on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, a day that he himself had designated, Jeroboam offered sacrifices on the altar at Bethel. He instituted a religious festival for Israel, and he went up to the altar to burn incense.

13 1 At the LORD's command, a man of God from Judah went to Bethel, arriving there just as Jeroboam was approaching the altar to burn incense. **2** Then at the LORD's command, he shouted, "O altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: A child named Josiah will be born into the dynasty of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests from the pagan shrines who come here to

burn incense, and human bones will be burned on you.” **3** That same day the man of God gave a sign to prove his message. He said, “The LORD has promised to give this sign: This altar will split apart, and its ashes will be poured out on the ground.” **4** When King Jeroboam heard the man of God speaking against the altar at Bethel, he pointed at him and shouted, “Seize that man!” But instantly the king’s hand became paralyzed in that position, and he couldn’t pull it back. **5** At the same time a wide crack appeared in the altar, and the ashes poured out, just as the man of God had predicted in his message from the LORD . **6** The king cried out to the man of God, “Please ask the LORD your God to restore my hand again!” So the man of God prayed to the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored and he could move it again. **7** Then the king said to the man of God, “Come to the palace with me and have something to eat, and I will give you a gift.” **8** But the man of God said to the king, “Even if you gave me half of everything you own, I would not go with you. I would not eat or drink anything in this place.” **9** For the LORD gave me this command: ‘You must not eat or drink anything while you are there, and do not return to Judah by the same way you came.’” **10** So he left Bethel and went home another way. **11** As it happened, there was an old prophet living in Bethel, and his sons came home and told him what the man of God had done in Bethel that day. They also told their father what the man had said to the king. **12** The old prophet asked them, “Which way did he go?” So they showed their father which road the man of God had taken. **13** “Quick, saddle the donkey,” the old man said. So they saddled the donkey for him, and he mounted it. **14** Then he rode after the man of God and found him sitting under a great tree. The old prophet asked him, “Are you the man of God who came from Judah?” “Yes, I am,” he replied. **15** Then he said to the man of God, “Come home with me and eat some food.” **16** “No, I cannot,” he replied. “I am not allowed to eat or drink anything here in this place. **17** For the LORD gave me this command: ‘You must not eat or drink anything while you are there, and do not return to Judah by the same way you came.’” **18** But the old prophet answered, “I am a prophet, too, just as you are. And an angel gave me this command from the LORD : ‘Bring him home with you so he can have something to eat and drink.’” But the old man was lying to him. **19** So they went back together, and the man of God ate and drank at the prophet’s home. **20** Then while they were sitting at the table, a command from the LORD came to the old prophet. **21** He cried out to the man of God from Judah, “This is what the LORD says: You have defied the word of the LORD and have disobeyed the command the LORD your God gave you. **22** You came back to this place and ate and drank where he told you not to eat or drink. Because of this, your body will not be buried in the grave of your ancestors.” **23** After the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the old prophet saddled his own donkey for him, **24** and the man of God started off again. But as he was traveling along, a lion came out and killed him. His body lay there on the road, with the donkey and the lion standing beside it. **25** People who passed by saw the body lying in the road

and the lion standing beside it, and they went and reported it in Bethel, where the old prophet lived. **26** When the prophet heard the report, he said, "It is the man of God who disobeyed the LORD's command. The LORD has fulfilled his word by causing the lion to attack and kill him." **27** Then the prophet said to his sons, "Saddle a donkey for me." So they saddled a donkey, **28** and he went out and found the body lying in the road. The donkey and lion were still standing there beside it, for the lion had not eaten the body nor attacked the donkey. **29** So the prophet laid the body of the man of God on the donkey and took it back to the town to mourn over him and bury him. **30** He laid the body in his own grave, crying out in grief, "Oh, my brother!" **31** Afterward the prophet said to his sons, "When I die, bury me in the grave where the man of God is buried. Lay my bones beside his bones. **32** For the message the LORD told him to proclaim against the altar in Bethel and against the pagan shrines in the towns of Samaria will certainly come true." **33** But even after this, Jeroboam did not turn from his evil ways. He continued to choose priests from the common people. He appointed anyone who wanted to become a priest for the pagan shrines. **34** This became a great sin and resulted in the utter destruction of Jeroboam's dynasty from the face of the earth.

Acts 9:26 - 43

9 26 When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! **27** Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus. **28** So Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. **29** He debated with some Greek-speaking Jews, but they tried to murder him. **30** When the believers heard about this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus, his hometown. **31** The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers. **32** Meanwhile, Peter traveled from place to place, and he came down to visit the believers in the town of Lydda. **33** There he met a man named Aeneas, who had been paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. **34** Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up, and roll up your sleeping mat!" And he was healed instantly. **35** Then the whole population of Lydda and Sharon saw Aeneas walking around, and they turned to the Lord. **36** There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. **37** About this time she became ill and died. Her body was washed for burial and laid in an upstairs room. **38** But the believers had

heard that Peter was nearby at Lydda, so they sent two men to beg him, "Please come as soon as possible!"**39** So Peter returned with them; and as soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other clothes Dorcas had made for them. **40** But Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, "Get up, Tabitha." And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up! **41** He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called in the widows and all the believers, and he presented her to them alive. **42** The news spread through the whole town, and many believed in the Lord. **43** And Peter stayed a long time in Joppa, living with Simon, a tanner of hides.

Psalm 132:1 - 18

132 **1** LORD, remember David and all that he suffered. **2** He made a solemn promise to the LORD . He vowed to the Mighty One of Israel, **3** "I will not go home; I will not let myself rest. **4** I will not let my eyes sleep nor close my eyelids in slumber **5** until I find a place to build a house for the LORD, a sanctuary for the Mighty One of Israel." **6** We heard that the Ark was in Ephrathah; then we found it in the distant countryside of Jaar. **7** Let us go to the sanctuary of the LORD ; let us worship at the footstool of his throne. **8** Arise, O LORD, and enter your resting place, along with the Ark, the symbol of your power. **9** May your priests be clothed in godliness; may your loyal servants sing for joy. **10** For the sake of your servant David, do not reject the king you have anointed. **11** The LORD swore an oath to David with a promise he will never take back: "I will place one of your descendants on your throne. **12** If your descendants obey the terms of my covenant and the laws that I teach them, then your royal line will continue forever and ever." **13** For the LORD has chosen Jerusalem ; he has desired it for his home. **14** "This is my resting place forever," he said. "I will live here, for this is the home I desired. **15** I will bless this city and make it prosperous; I will satisfy its poor with food. **16** I will clothe its priests with godliness; its faithful servants will sing for joy. **17** Here I will increase the power of David; my anointed one will be a light for my people. **18** I will clothe his enemies with shame, but he will be a glorious king."

Proverbs 17:6

17 **6** Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged; parents are the pride of their children.