

## AS A SENT ONE

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TEXT: [1Kings13v1—34]

The word **Apostle** (Apostolos in Greek), meaning = a delegate, messenger, one **sent forth with orders**.

**Apostolic** refers to a position of being sent.

**We (the church), are the sent ones.** Most of us are not aware we are all in full-time ministry. Wherever God has placed you – your carrier is your pulpit. We take over from where Jesus left off.

Let us learn from the Messiah (anointed One) how He conducted Himself as a Chief Apostle:

- (1) He clearly understood His assignment. [Luke2v49] And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?”
- (2) He carried the message of the sender. [John9v4—5] I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day: the night is coming when no one can work. (5) As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.
- (3) He was connected to the sender. [John8v29] And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.
- (4) He came to represent the sender. [John 14v10] Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I speak to you, I do not speak on My own authority: but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.
- (5) He was accountable to the sender. [John17v12] While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me, I have kept, and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture, might be fulfilled.
- (6) He strived to finish His assignment. [John4v34] My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.
- (7) He finally finished His assignment. [John17v4] I have glorified You on the earth. I have **finished** the work which You have given Me to do.

### 1Kings13v1—34]

In this account God is **judging** Jeroboam and the ten tribes, (the Northern kingdom—generally referred to as **Israel**).

The Nation of Israel over which David ruled was now **divided into two** – the Southern Kingdom (**two tribes**) known as **Judah** (under Rehoboam, son of King Solomon) and the Northern Kingdom (**ten tribes**) known as **Israel** (under Jeroboam, son of Nebat).

Jeroboam, son of Nebat, derailed the people of God, for fear **they would go down to Jerusalem**, to offer sacrifices in the house of God (1Kings12v27).

- (1) He made two calves of gold, and said to the people, “**It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Oh Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt**” (1King12v28).
- (2) He set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.
- (3) He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi.

- (4) He ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar.
- (5) At Bethel he installed the priests on the high places which he had made.
- (6) He made sacrifices on the fifteenth day of the eighth month – a month he had devised in his own heart.
- (7) He ordained a feast for **Israel** and offered sacrifices and incense on the altar.

Always know, at the back of your mind that the enemies of God are the enemies of the church – just like David. [Psalm139v21–22] *Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loath those who rise up against You? (22) I hate them with perfect hatred, I count them my enemies.*

Ours is to keep our position as sons of the Almighty God. We are to train ourselves to yield to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, so He can work in and through us. We (the body of Christ) are the **sent ones**.

You will also notice that, in every plan of God there is always that element that comes to counter what God is doing:

- (1) The very plan of the coming Messiah was not well received. Harold killed infants in Israel trying to frustrate the plan of God. [Matthew2v16] *Then Harold, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, he was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all his districts, from two years old and under, according to the time he had determined from the wise men.*
- (2) Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, challenging His position as a Son of God, and attempting to make Him abort His assignment. [Luke4v3] *And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”*
- (3) Jesus’ ministry met with great resistance, just like Paul. [Luke6v6–7] *Now it happened on another Sabbath, also, that He entered the Synagogue and taught. And a man was there whose right hand was withered. (7) So the Scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him.*
- (4) Paul’s boldness was his greatest strength. God cannot work with a jelly -fish (zero back-bone). *King Saul feared men than God. He was a man-pleaser and thus he was rejected by God and lost his throne.*
- (5) Get it loud and clear that you are here to co-work with God. Stay focus and not allow yourself to be distracted.

#### **The man of God who came from Judah:**

- (1) He was a sent one. He went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord. He cried out against the altar, and said, “O altar, altar! Thus, says the Lord: Behold, a child Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and man’s bones shall be burned on you. *The altar split apart by the word of the Lord as confirmation that he **was sent**.*
- (2) He did not understand his assignment: Was sent to cry against the altar – instructed not to eat bread, drink water, nor come back the same way. *He was not sent to account to the king (v8–9).*
- (3) He was very naïve, immature and careless. The instruction given him was meant for him and not for publicizing. *The sons of the old prophet told their father the words which the young prophet had spoken to the king (1Kings13v11).*
- (4) He betrayed God’s strategy to the enemy – was now joining the enemy against God.

- (5) He totally misrepresented the sender. Lingering around Jeroboam was not part of his assignment. He had already delivered an accurate word [1Kings13v5] *The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar according to the word of the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the Lord.*
- (6) His first mistake was to pray to God to restore the hand of Jeroboam, nullifying God's judgement. When God is in a militant mood and judging the situation, He says, *"Do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them; for I will not hear them in the time that they cry out to Me because of their trouble (Jeremiah7v16, 14v11).*
- (7) He had an element of seeking glory for himself.
- (8) For him to be easily deceived by the old prophet, he lacked discernment and could not discern lies. **The Spirit of God who was guiding him had left.** He was now alone. *When the Spirit of God left King Saul, the result was demonic manifestations.* Disobeying is very expensive, may cost you your life. Don't dare to take that route.
- (9) He disobeyed completely and died prematurely without finishing his assignment.
- (10) He represents many in the church who don't know who they are, nor their assignment.
- (11) Many in the church are blind and immature. [Proverbs7v7] *I saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, a young man devoid of understanding.*
- (12) Many are easily carried about with every wind of doctrine (Ephesians4v14).
- (13) He entertained what His itching ears wanted to hear. [2Timothy4v3—4] *For time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; (4) and they will turn their ears away from the truth.*

**The old prophet:**

- (1) He was not sent by God. There are many in the church today who **just go to fulfil their own agendas, not sent by God.**
- (2) It is out of envy that he frustrates the plan of God. God did not choose him while he was right there in Bethel.
- (3) He is a false prophet, lying from the back of His teeth. [John8v48] *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*
- (4) He is a hypocrite. [1Kings13v30—32] *Then he laid the corpse in his own tomb; and they mourned over him, saying, "Alas, my brother!" (31) So it was, after he had buried him, that he spoke to his sons, saying, "When I am dead, then bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried; lay my bone beside his bones, (32) for the saying which he cried out by the word of the Lord against the altar in Bethel; and against all the shrines in the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass.*
- (5) He wanted to ensure that his bones will not be among those which Josiah will burn on the altar, wants to hide in the tomb with the young prophet.

[2Chronicles34v3] *For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his Father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the caved images, and the molded images. (4) They broke down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and the incense altars which were above them he cut down, and the wooden images and the carved images, and the molded images he broke in pieces and made dust of them and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. (5) He also burned*

*the bones of the priests on their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. (6) And so he did in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim and Simeon, as far as Naphtali and all around with axes.*