

Word of the Lord saying Eat no bread nor drink water nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.

The Lord had commanded him not only to rebuke Jeroboam but having rebuked him to leave him and return to Judah. He had an explicit command from God, Do not eat bread nor drink water in this place. You notice he does not say "with the king", he says "in this place". That was a specific command given him in a specific situation. Do not eat bread nor drink water in this place. We find a parallel to in the the Apostle of Love (II John 9-11) where we find that he wrote to the elect lady and to her children. He said, Whosoever transgresseth and abides not in the doctrine of Christ has not God. He that abides in the doctrine of Christ he has both the father and the son. If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house neither bid him god-speed, for he that biddeth him godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds. That is the NT parallel to this command.

Here God had given a specific command to this man, Do not fraternize with this wicked king in any way. Do not eat bread nor drink water again in this place. Do not go back by the way you came. Why should he go back a different way? We dont know, but it was part of God's command. We can make guesses but we don't know. But this man was ready to take God at his word. He said, This is what God said to me and I'm going to follow it straight down the line. So he went another way, and did not return the way he had come to Bethel.

Now we find a sad story in what follows. There was an old prophet in Bethel. He said to his family, Isn't it a shame, the way the king isn't following God's command like David did! The way he is putting up this altar. Oh, I wish I had the courage to step out there and rebuke him in the name of God for it. But he said, I used to speak up in the old days when everybody was favoring the truth. I even mildly rebuked the king once. in a while, but he said, We're in bad days today and I'm getting along in years. I don't think I'll even go to look at that altar."

But his sons were there and they came home and told him everything that happened. They said, O Dad, if you had been there you would have been happy. There was a man after your own heart. He gave the Lord's Word. He stood by it. He stood right up and said he ~~was~~ would not eat with the king. The father felt so happy to think of these times coming back again. A man like that, he said, I've got to know that man. So he said to his sons, Which way went he? He said to his sons, Saddle me the ass so they saddled him the ass and he road on it, and went after the man of God and found him sitting under an oak. And he said, Are you the man of God who came from Judah. He said, I am. He said, Come home with me and eat bread. He said, I cannot return with thee nor go in with thee nor will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place. For it was said to me by the word of the Lord, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again by the way that thou camest. The old prophet said to himself, Isn't this awful. Here I cannot have fellowship with this man because he has ~~XXXX~~ is giving an over literal interpretation to what God has said. Of course the Lord did not want him to eat