

1st Kings Chapter 14

- The kingdom of Israel had been divided into the Northern and the Southern kingdoms. Ten tribes called Israel now comprise the Northern kingdom. Two tribes, Judah and Benjamin comprise the Southern kingdom.
- There will be about 9 different dynasties in the Northern kingdom, while the dynasty of David remains the only dynasty of the Southern kingdom.
- As we look at the history of the Northern kingdom, they did not have a single good king, they went from bad to worse following the example of Jeroboam.
- Judah on the other hand had some good, sometimes very good kings reigning over them, all the descendants of David.
- The idolatry of Solomon led to the division of the kingdom; God said He would divide the kingdom after Solomon's death, giving ten of the tribes to Jeroboam.
- God used the prophet Ahijah to inform Jeroboam of God's intent. Ahijah had been wearing a new robe which he took off and tore into twelve pieces, giving ten pieces to Jeroboam – along with God's promise to be with Jeroboam and bless him if he would just be obedient to the Word of God.
- Sadly Jeroboam immediately led the Northern kingdom into idolatry in part because he feared the re-unification of the nation and it got worse and worse.
- God brought a man of God, a prophet from Judah to pronounce judgment upon the pagan altars that Jeroboam had built in Dan and Bethel. Jeroboam's hand was shriveled then restored by the Lord.
- We never read in scripture that Jeroboam sought the Lord's will, prayed for spiritual discernment, or asked the Lord to make him a godly man. He prayed for the healing of his arm, and seemingly will approach the prophet Ahijah for the healing of his son - but like many nominal believers today, they only want God's help when they're in trouble.

1 Kings 13:33 “After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way,…”

V: 1 Jeroboam wouldn't listen to God's messenger so God will get Jeroboam's attention in another way, through his son, probably the crown prince, Abijah becomes very sick.

- Abijah = “My Father is Yahweh” Jeroboam wasn't always bad, he had a good start in his younger days. Sadly it isn't how we start, but how we finish.

Hebrews 12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which

doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

V: 2-3 Jeroboam instructs his wife to disguise herself and go to Shiloh and talk with Ahijah the prophet.

- Why the disguise and the attempt at concealing her identity? Later Ahijah asks her the same question.
- We can only assume that Ahijah had broken fellowship with the king due to his idolatry and pagan practices. Could have been pride on Jeroboam’s part, not wanting to acknowledge that he needed the help of the true and living God as opposed the little gods of his own making, or perhaps knowing that Ahijah would simply direct him back to his pagan gods – and have them answer your questions.

Ezekiel 20:3 “Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, thus saith the Lord God; are ye come to inquire of Me? As I live, saith the Lord God, I will not be inquired of by you.”

- When it came down to crunch time, who did Jeroboam want to hear from?
- She’s instructed to take a gift for the prophet, 10 loaves, cakes, and a cruse of honey.
- The ten loaves seems like a lot for one guy, not absolutely sure of the significance but I’m reminded of the 12 loaves of shew bread in the Tabernacle and Temple representing the 12 tribes before God. Here we have 10 loaves, the number of tribes over which Jeroboam reigns.
- This was not a “kingly” gift, it was more of what you would give to a common laborer.
- The bottom line is that Jeroboam wants to know what will happen with the boy.

V: 4 The queen then sets out to do what her husband said.

- They obviously hadn’t had any contact with Ahijah in a good long time, not knowing that he was blind – that might have changed their plan about the disguise.

V: 5-6 The Lord speaks to his servant Ahijah, preparing him for what he’s about to encounter, including that the wife of Jeroboam will arrive in disguise.

Amos 3:7 “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets.”

Psalm 25:14 “The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and he will show them His covenant.”

- The last time that it's recorded that the Lord spoke to Ahijah was about 20 years ago, we're not sure what has transpired in his life since then, but here he is ready and waiting to hear the Lord and to serve Him.
- He may be old and blind physically, but he's seeing with perfect clarity in the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:7 “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

- God is light, who repels darkness. God is truth who reveals lies.
- As she enters the room, Ahijah exposes her fraud and tells her that he has heavy tidings for her.

V: 7-9 Tell your husband (there's a fun job...) that he had been blessed and given the nation, yet he was rebellious.

“8... thou hast not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments, and who followed Me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes;”

- If this was all that we knew about David – we would think that he had never sinned against God – which in God's eyes is true.

Psalm 103:12 “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.”

- Contrary to God's Word and David's example Jeroboam has been rebellious and has provoked God, casting God behind his back.

V: 10-13 Jeroboam's sin, as with ours never just impacts us personally but it impacts his entire family who will perish.

- Jeroboam's family will all die violent deaths, meet dishonorable ends, and be remembered no more. Jeroboam's descendants will be cleared away like once casting dung from the house.
- Abijah will be the only one to actually see a decent grave and burial.

V: 13b “... because in him there is found some good thing toward the Lord God of Israel...”

- Nothing else having been said or described about Abijah – it's left to what God says about him:

2 Chronicles 6:30 "... render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men."

- The fact that the people mourned means that he was appreciated by the people, perhaps there was still a righteous remnant in Israel that had pinned their hopes on the young prince for the restoration of the nation. God did him a favor by removing him from such a polluted environment.

Isaiah 57:1 "The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come."

- This description of Abijah also seems to imply that there was nothing good found in any of the rest of the family.

V: 14-16 The Lord will accomplish all of this by raising up another king who will destroy the house of Jeroboam, which is the short term prophecy.

- And He will eventually bring in the Assyrians to judge the entire nation, which is the longer term prophecy – scattering them across the River Euphrates throughout the lands of the East.
- The first prophecy was all brought to pass just two years later:

1 Kings 15:27-30 "²⁷And Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him; and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon. ²⁸Even in the third year of Asa king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead. ²⁹And it came to pass, when he reigned, that he smote all the house of Jeroboam; he left not to Jeroboam any that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according unto the saying of the Lord, which he spake by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite: ³⁰Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger."

- Because of the sins of Jeroboam who also made Israel to sin; credit given where credit was deserved.

V: 17-20 (Map) Tirzah had been a Canaanite royal city captured by Joshua, which ironically or appropriately had become the capital of the Northern kingdom. It was about an 18-20 trip from Shiloh to Tirzah – which means "She's Friendly".

- Jeroboam's wife has been given a lot, and none of it good. It must have been a long, grievous trek home with a heavy heart.

- As she arrives home, just as she was told, the prophecy begins to unfold and her son dies.
- Key Phrase: “*According to the Word of the Lord.*”

Isaiah 48:1-5 “¹Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness. ²For they call themselves of the holy city, and stay themselves upon the God of Israel; The Lord of hosts is his name. ³I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of My mouth, and I shewed them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass. ⁴Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass; ⁵I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee: lest thou shouldst say, mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them.”

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand for ever.”

V: 21-24 Switching gears back to the Southern kingdom of Judah. Rehoboam has reigned for 17 years. We studied about the beginning of his reign in 1 Kings Chapter 12.

- Mention is made here and again at the end of the chapter that his mother was an Ammonitess. Then the very next sentence says that Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord - and there is a definite connection.
- The fact that this is mentioned twice may be intended to show us the underlying reason for the failure of Rehoboam’s rule.
- The Jews has specifically been told not to intermarry with the nations around them because of the the effect that it would eventually have upon them spiritually.

Exodus 34:14-16 “¹⁴For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: ¹⁵Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a-whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice; ¹⁶And thou take of their daughters unto they sons, and their daughters go a-whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a-whoring after their gods.”

- People disbelieve God’s Word and expect that what He says won’t happen but there is a very reliable cause and effect relationship in the universe, if God says it, it will happen.

- After listing the various sins of the people there is the statement that “there were also sodomites in the land...”
- This is a bench mark statement - this is how bad it has gotten.
- People complain today about the militant homosexual movement within the church, but it only exists because the church didn't deal with the other moral issues 30 years ago when it ignored adultery and fornication within the church.
- In the OT, sodomites / homosexuals were to be stoned - in the NT they are called to repentance.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 “⁹Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

- Like the plague of leprosy, if sin isn't dealt with in a biblical way it will spread and get worse, and it will kill.
- This describes that there was no distinction between Judah and the pagan nations around them.

V: 25-28 As a result, God allows or maybe even sends Shi-shak, king of Egypt to chasten Judah.

- The Egyptians come down and plunder Jerusalem and the Temple.

[Picture](#) / Egyptian gateway arch in Joppa.

- Karnac / Luxor, Egypt archeologists discovered a huge bas-relief depicting the Egyptian side of the story, their great victory and plunder of the land of Canaan and the Israelites.
- There are those who suspect or speculate that this is when the Ark of the Covenant was taken.
- The Southern kingdom is diminished and looted.
- It should be noted as we studied earlier that Solomon married Pharaoh's daughter to guarantee peace on his Southern border, so he wouldn't have to worry about being attacked by the Egyptians, (in rebellion to God's word) - but that didn't last long.

V: 29-31 All things are recorded, whether in the book of the Chronicles of the kings, or in heaven itself.

- There was a constant state of war between Rehoboam / Judah and Jeroboam / Israel.

Proverbs 16:7 “When a man’s ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

Isaiah 57:21 “There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.”

- Rehoboam died and was buried with his fathers. His son Abijam which is another variation of Abijah reigns in his place.

Cause & effect: obedience = blessing, disobedience = cursing.

Jesus said:

John 14:15 “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.”

And what a joy it is to serve our Lord!