

I Kings Lesson 14

I Kings Chapter 14

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Memory verses for this week: **2Jn 1:3** *Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*

Introduction: In Chapter 13, we studied first about the man of God who prophesied against the altar setup by Jeroboam in Bethel. When Jeroboam stretched out his arm against the prophet, the bible says his arm withered. He asks the man of God to help him, and God graciously restored his arm.

The latter part of the chapter told of the story of the young prophet who was misled by the older prophet of Bethel and it ultimately cost him his life. The older prophet had lied and told him to come and return to Bethel and eat with him when God had given no such instructions. Because of his disobedience, the young prophet lost his life.

In Chapter 14, we find calamities are now fast closing round and accumulating upon the head of the impenitent Jeroboam. The power he has defied and provoked must make itself felt; and the righteousness of the Divine mercy, so long and so often despised, must be vindicated. As the coming tempest gives signals of its advance, and reaches the climax of its fury by graduated stages, so the judgments of heaven most often do not overtake the wicked without pre-admonition and ample opportunity for repentance.

I. Judgment on Jeroboam and the Ten Tribes

1Ki 14:1 *At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick.*

1Ki 14:2 *And Jeroboam said to his wife, Arise, I pray thee, and disguise thyself, that thou be not known to be the wife of Jeroboam; and get thee to Shiloh: behold, there is Ahijah the prophet, which told me that I should be king over this people.*

We find that most of the time, divine judgments usually are not sent without due warning. This warning is repeated as verse 1 records "at that time". Jeroboam had been warned by the prophet of Judah. We studied last week how he was warned by the withered arm and the rent altar. Now he is warned by his son who has become ill.

Do not confuse Abijah the son of Jeroboam with Abijah the son of Rehoboam. We need to take note of the fact that the same person may be found in another place with a different spelling or even the name may be different. This was so in the case of Abijah. The warning appeals to the tenderness of human feelings. Jeroboam's parental love is awakened by a sick and dying child.

1Ki 14:3 And take with thee ten loaves, and cracknels, and a cruse of honey, and go to him: he shall tell thee what shall become of the child.

1Ki 14:4 And Jeroboam's wife did so, and arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age.

1Ki 14:5 And the LORD said unto Ahijah, Behold, the wife of Jeroboam cometh to ask a thing of thee for her son; for he is sick: thus and thus shalt thou say unto her: for it shall be, when she cometh in, that she shall feign herself to be another woman.

1Ki 14:6 And it was so, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said, Come in, thou wife of Jeroboam; why feignest thou thyself to be another? for I am sent to thee with heavy tidings.

King Jeroboam thought that by his gifts that he could buy the favor of God. This is a false idea that many in today's world also believe. People today need to know they cannot bribe the Lord. God is not in the deal making business.

He sets the rules and we either obey or disobey, but he is not swayed by man created deals. This warning is given by the same person who uttered promises of good there in verses 5-6. He well remembered the good news of the prophet Ahijah.

1Ki 11:29 And it came to pass at that time when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him in the way; and he had clad himself with a new garment; and they two were alone in the field:

1Ki 11:30 And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:

1Ki 11:31 And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:

Jeroboam forgot to obey the serious warning that the prophet gave him in 1 Kings 11:37-38. How different his life would have been if he had heeded the warning. King Saul had a similar warning which he did not heed with disastrous results.

1Sa 15:26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

1Sa 15:27 And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

1Sa 15:28 And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

Jeroboam's wife's disguise might have deceived a near blind prophet, but it could never deceive the all-seeing God. He is the search of the hearts of all men.

1Ki 14:7 Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel,

1Ki 14:8 And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and yet 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;
1Ki 14:9 But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and
made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me
behind thy back:*

God's divine judgment is explicitly declared beginning in verse 7. The reasons for the Divine judgments are given.

- i. Jeroboam had been exalted by God. (Verse 7)
- ii. The kingdom had been taken from house of David and given to him. (Verse 8). This was done because of the sins of David and particularly the sins of Solomon.
- iii. Yet, Jeroboam had sinned against God disregarding the warnings of the Lord. (Verse 9). His sins exceeded the sins of all those before him.

1Ki 14:10 Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone.

1Ki 14:11 Him that dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat: for the LORD hath spoken it.

1Ki 14:12 Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die.

1Ki 14:13 And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

Verse 10 shows us the nature of the Divine judgments. It was a personal matter. All of the Male offspring of Jeroboam would perish. He would have no one to succeed him of his own family. Verse 11 went on to say that the dogs and the fowls would devour his children.

Judgment would come on his sick son. Death would come as a result of the wicked life of Jeroboam. Abijah would receive a decent funeral and burial, but yet he would perish. God was gracious and did see some good thing in this young son.

1Ki 14:14 Moreover the LORD shall raise him up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam that day: but what? even now.

1Ki 14:15 For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger.

1Ki 14:16 And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin.

The next king would destroy all the offspring of Jeroboam.

1Ki 15:27 And 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.

1Ki 15:28 Even in the third year of Asa king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead.

1Ki 15:29 And 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:

1Ki 15:30 Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger.

The ten tribes of the northern kingdom would eventually go into captivity. Because of the sins of Jeroboam was the cause for God giving Israel up according to verse 16. This would be a fulfillment of old warnings and prophecies.

Deuteronomy 28:63 And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Deuteronomy 29:27 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book.

Joshua 23:16 When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.

It is tragic that even Christians are not heeding the warnings of God, and consequently bring harm to their church, their family, and their nation.

Numbers 32:23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

There are terrible consequences for sin, both for the saved and the lost.

Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

We pay a price when we do not follow the commands of the Lord. The bible is clear that saved people who refuse the guidance of the Holy Spirit will be chastened by the Lord.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son

whom he receiveth.

Proverbs 3:12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Those who do not know the Lord face a worse punishment. Lost people will have everlasting punishment.

Romans 2:9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Ki 14:17 And Jeroboam's wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah: and when she came to the threshold of the door, the child died;

1Ki 14:18 And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by the hand of his servant Ahijah the prophet.

1Ki 14:19 And the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he warred, and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

1Ki 14:20 And the days which Jeroboam reigned were two and twenty years: and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his stead.

Nothing can stop a divine judgment. When God speaks a judgment it is inevitable. The pious son dies as soon as Jeroboam's wife arrives home. All the nation is moved by the loss and there was great mourning for him. Jeroboam also is eventually stricken and his son Nadab reigned in his stead.

II. Divine Judgments upon Rehoboam and Judah

1Ki 14:21 And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess.

1Ki 14:22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done.

1Ki 14:23 For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.

1Ki 14:24 And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

Also read: 2 Chronicles 11:5-12, 18-23 and 2 Chronicles 12:1-14 for further information about the sins of Rehoboam.

He sinned in many ways, and verses 21 and 22 say he promoted idolatry. Of

course this was strictly forbidden. They were to have no other gods before them.

Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Exo 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Exo 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Exodus 20:4 commands for them to have no images. Rehoboam also permitted sodomites in the land. God will not tolerate a nation that approves of sodomy. Many examples are in the Word of God, and we know God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah over this specific sin.

Genesis 19:24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven.

This sin of sodomy and homosexuality is always condemned in the Bible.

Rom 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Rom 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Rom 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

Rom 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Rom 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Rom 1:30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Rom 1:31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Rom 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

(Also See Leviticus 18:22; 20:13)

Like all sinners who do not repent, homosexuals cannot go to heaven if they will not repent and quit that sin and trust in the Saviour. Idolatry destroys the bravery of a Nation.

1Ki 14:25 And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem:

1Ki 14:26 And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made.

1Ki 14:27 And king Rehoboam made in their stead brasen shields, and committed them unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house.

1Ki 14:28 And it was so, when the king went into the house of the LORD, that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber.

Sin caused Israel to be powerless before the enemy when Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. Verse 26 says that the beautiful shields of gold were taken away. As we studied recently about the temple, we found that gold speaks of divinity and God was their shield of protection. Rehoboam replaced them with shields of brass. Brass speaks of judgment.

God was no longer their shield, but He will be their judge. King Rehoboam went on pretending that they were still there. In every age the devil has sought to get God's people to accept a cheap substitute for the real thing. It is easy when we lose God's blessing to seek a cheap substitute.

1Ki 14:29 Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

1Ki 14:30 And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.

1Ki 14:31 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. And Abijam his son reigned in his stead.

There were other fruits of idolatry that Rehoboam did before the lord. There was war and enmity between the two kings all their days. Rehoboam had an untimely death and was buried in a dishonored grave. This verse gives us another clue of what caused this awful calamity. Solomon had taken an Ammonite for a wife, and she was the mother of Rehoboam.

Deu 23:3 An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:

Deu 7:2 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

Deu 7:3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

* Additional Comments added by E.L. Bynum in Dec. 2013.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.