

## Sunday Evening Message

May 19, 2024

*What Happened to the Two First Kings of the Divided Kingdom? – Part One - Jeroboam*

Text – 1 Kings 14:1 - 20

### Introduction

In chapter twelve, we saw that there was a split in the kingdom of Israel, which divided into two nations. The northern kingdom was called “Israel” and was led by King Jeroboam, and the southern kingdom was called “Judah” and was led by King Rehoboam. In chapter thirteen, we saw a prophecy pronounced against the northern kingdom for the two altars that were built by Jeroboam: one in Dan and one in Bethel. These two altars were built for the purpose of keeping the people of the north from travelling into Jerusalem in the south to worship the Lord. Jeroboam figured that if he made the people of the north their own altars to make their sacrifices, they would forget all about Jerusalem and the Temple. This plan of Jeroboam backfires because all the true worshippers of God would eventually leave the northern kingdom permanently and settle down in the southern kingdom so that they could worship at the Temple:

*"14 For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the LORD: 15 And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made. 16 And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers. 17 So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon." (2 Chronicles 11:14-17)*

Jeroboam ended up losing all the godly people out of his kingdom, which made it a very evil place to live that would not have the blessing of the Lord:

*"34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)*

**Practical Point** – People who were dedicated to the Lord packed up and moved away from their extended family and left their homes because they wanted to be able to serve the Lord. Today, a good local church is a very important consideration when considering a move. Don't move your family unless you know that there is a good local church for you to worship and serve in.

**Illustrate** – Melissa and Wes have just gotten their orders for North Carolina. They are hunting right now, while they are still in Alaska for a good church to serve in once they move.

The prophet that came up to Israel from Judah in 1 Kings 13, prophesied that there was coming a king in the future who would destroy these altars and burn all the false priests that served them upon them.

Chapter fourteen of 1<sup>st</sup> Kings will tell us what happens to the two kings: Rehoboam of Judah, and Jeroboam of Israel. This message will focus on the first part of the chapter and what happens to Jeroboam.

### I. A Fallen Sick Son (vs. 1 – 4)

Note – “cracknels” are hard cakes.

Jeroboam’s son, Abijah, had fallen seriously sick, and like any father, Jeroboam was concerned about him and wanted to find out from God if the child would get well.

There are a couple of things from this section that need to be pointed out. It may appear on the surface with a quick reading of this passage that Jeroboam is a good guy who loves his family and fears God, but let’s look a little closer:

1. Jeroboam does not pray to God himself regarding his son. Apparently, he did not have a personal relationship with God. There is nothing wrong with enlisting the prayer support of others when you are facing a big problem, but you first need to pray yourself.

*"14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. 16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."* (James 5:14-16)

2. Jeroboam does not go himself but sends his wife to go to the prophet Ahijah. Ahijah was the prophet who had originally told Jeroboam that he would be the king. Jeroboam delegated this job to his wife. He was too prideful to go himself.

This is typical. A husband sends his wife to get the spiritual help for the family. The husband is supposed to be the spiritual leader of the home.

3. He asks his wife to disguise herself so that the prophet would not know who she was and perhaps to keep other people from seeing what they were doing.
4. Jeroboam does not ask the prophet to heal his son, he asks what will become of him. If he really loved his son, he might be begging God and the prophet both for healing.

5. Jeroboam does not seem to care about God, or God's prophet until he needed something.

## **II. A Foretold Sad Story (vs. 5 – 16)**

The prophet tells the wife to tell Jeroboam that his son would die, but that his death would not be as bad as what many of the Jeroboam's offspring would face, being devoured by scavengers (see Deuteronomy 28:15 – 26).

All of this was because Jeroboam had forsaken God (vs. 8 – 9). Notice, Jeroboam is compared to David.

Not only will Jeroboam's future generations be adversely affected, but Israel will also have a dismal future (vs. 14 – 16).

V. 14 – the fulfillment of this prophecy is found in 1 Kings 15:27 – 30.

## **III. A Fulfilled Sentence Served (vs. 17 – 20)**

Abijah died exactly as Ahijah prophesied.