

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
GOD'S JUDGMENT OF JEROBOAM
1 KINGS 14:1-20

Introduction

Trials have a way of getting our attention, especially if we have strayed from the LORD!

In this section, Jeroboam and his wife are faced with a serious problem which reveals the uselessness of the false gods that they have been worshipping. They attempt to try to trick a man of God through Jeroboam's wife using a disguise!

Problems can have a way showing us our error and giving us a reality check!

We see Jeroboam's problem surfaces in the first verse.

I. WE SEE THE SICKNESS OF JEROBOAM'S SON! (14:1)

Abijah, Jeroboam's son, became sick. We can see that this illness of Jeroboam's son most certainly was a part of God judging Jeroboam's family because of his sinfulness. (13:33-34)

Always remember—We can choose to sin, but we cannot choose the consequences! The consequences for our sin is in the LORD's hands!

Abijah's name meant "*Jehovah is his father.*" That's a good name! Understand that the names of children in that day reflected the attitudes of the parents. This leads us to conclude that at the time of the birth of *Abijah*, **Jeroboam was still worshipping the LORD, had not departed from the LORD, and did not intend to desert the worship of LORD!**

However, **Jeroboam's pride, power, and persistent disobedience drew Jeroboam far away from the LORD.** We've seen how that after he ascended to the throne of Israel, he turned his back on the LORD and became an idol worshiper and by doing so caused all of Israel to turn to idols! The LORD was not pleased with him!

But think about this, every time he called out his son's name, he was reminded that "*Jehovah is his father.*"

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So, Jeroboam's son is sick. His new gods could do nothing for him, his wife, or his son. His son is in deep trouble.

II. WE SEE THE SCHEMING OF JEROBOAM AND HIS WIFE! (14:2-3)

So, Jeroboam got his wife to go seek out the help of the man of God, Ahijah the Prophet, in Shiloh. This was the same prophet that told Jeroboam that the LORD was going to make him king over these northern ten tribes of Israel. (1 Kings 11:29-39)

But the problem is that the word about Jeroboam and his idolatry has become common knowledge to all Israel—both North and South! Undoubtedly, he was afraid that if the prophet knew that he or his wife were seeking help for their son, he wouldn't help them!

So, Jeroboam came up with a scheme that involved his wife disguising herself and going see the prophet Ahijah in Shiloh.

She was to take him a gift of some provisions and get him to seek the LORD on their behalf and tell her the future of their son.

Now, this would probably have been very traumatic for a mother who would rather be at the side of her sick child.

This scheme begs us to ask, why would he have her go to the prophet of God about his son? Why didn't they just pray to their calf gods?

Well the answer is that they probably did, but their idols gave them no relief. Those calf gods were not real. At one time he had known the real God, but he forsook him for that which was nothing more than vanity!

And now that the chastening hand of the LORD was heavy on his family, he wanted a man of God to reach out to the real God for him, because he wasn't in any position to reach out to God!

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So, why didn't Jeroboam just renounce his idols and return to the LORD? Well, the answer is he was not ready to repent of his sin as we will see.

He was still fearful of losing his power as king. But, here, when he is in trouble, he has his wife seek the man of God to seek God for them!

So, why does the king have his wife go to THIS man of God for help and for answers? Well, I think the answer is obvious. It is because that Ahijah was once a messenger of good tidings for him. He informed Jeroboam of the split in the kingdom and that he would be king. Jeroboam is seeking another good prophecy.

So the queen disguised herself...probably for two reasons.

1. If people observed the queen's departure to visit a prophet, it would diminish the credibility of calf worship and Jeroboam wasn't willing to go that far!
2. Jeroboam may have felt that if the prophet knew the woman was the queen, he would denounce Jeroboam's sin and refuse to help them, and rightly so.

It is the same as when people don't want to do right and live right, but they want the man of God and the Church to pray for them because the consequences of their sin lays heavy on them!

It is ironic that Jeroboam expects the prophet to see the future but not through his wife's disguise.

He sends honey, bread, and cracknels which was bread or cake that had become dry.

Notice closely what he wants to know. He wants to know what will happen to the child. Is this what you would want to know if your child was deathly sick? Time will reveal this answer.

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Jeroboam does not ask what he must do to make the child well. He does not ask what he should do about his sinfulness. He loves his sin too much.

He would have been much better off to repent of his sin and idolatry, ask for forgiveness, and pray for the LORD's mercy for his son!

Jeroboam is like many people who would rather be told his fortune than his faults. Jeroboam reveals that when one gets away from God, their priorities get all out of wack.

Jeroboam knew the prophet would tell him the truth about the future of his son. A true man of God tells the truth about the future. He tells the truth about Heaven, Hell, and the Second Coming of Christ, etc.

III. WE SEE THE SIGHTLESS PROPHET AHIJAH! (14:4)

The queen arrived at Shiloh and she found a blind Ahijah. He was suffering from an age related eye ailment where the pupil was set and did not contract with the light.

He was physically blind, but there was nothing wrong with his spiritual sight! He was not spiritually blind! He was still in touch with God!

IV. WE SEE THE SHAM REVEALED BY THE LORD! (14:5)

God was not finished with this old prophet. Ahijah was old, blind, but he was still hearing the voice of the Lord. God was not finished with him yet!

This verse shows that God sees through our clever disguises.
Psalm 94:9—He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?

Proverbs 15:11—Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?

People who try to deceive the Lord are only deceiving themselves!

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Everything will be brought to light one day!

1 Corinthians 3:13—Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1 Corinthians 4:5—Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

The truth that is concealed will eventually come out.

Numbers 32:23 – "...and be sure your sin will find you out."

Hebrews 4:13 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

V. WE SEE THE SHOCKING SURPRISE! (14:6-20)

A. The Queen Is Outed! (Vs 6)

Imagine the queen's shock when she arrives and this blind prophet unveils her identity.

She thought she was sent to this man of God to get a message about her son, but the LORD turned this thing around and gave her a message and a message for her husband!

B. The King Is Ousted! (Vs 7-20)