



1 KINGS

A Middle Order Collapse

1st Kings 14:1-16:34



1st Kings 14:1–20

¹ At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick. ² And Jeroboam said to his wife, “Arise, and disguise yourself, that it not be known that you are the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh. Behold, Ahijah the prophet is there, who said of me that I should be king over this people. ³ Take with you ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what shall happen to the child.” ⁴ Jeroboam’s wife did so. She arose and went to Shiloh and came to the house of Ahijah.



1st Kings 14:1–20

Now Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were dim because of his age. ⁵ And the LORD said to Ahijah, “Behold, the wife of Jeroboam is coming to inquire of you concerning her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus shall you say to her.” When she came, she pretended to be another woman. ⁶ But when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, he said, “Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another? For I am charged with unbearable news for you.



1st Kings 14:1–20

⁷ Go, tell Jeroboam, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: “Because I exalted you from among the people and made you leader over my people Israel ⁸ and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, and yet you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commandments and followed me with all his heart, doing only that which was right in my eyes, ⁹ but you have done evil above all who were before you and have gone and made for yourself other gods



1st Kings 14:1–20

and metal images, provoking me to anger, and have cast me behind your back, ¹⁰ therefore behold, I will bring harm upon the house of Jeroboam and will cut off from Jeroboam every male, both bond and free in Israel, and will burn up the house of Jeroboam, as a man burns up dung until it is all gone. ¹¹ Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat, for the LORD has spoken it.”



1st Kings 14:1–20

¹² Arise therefore, go to your house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. 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 something pleasing to the LORD, the God of Israel, in the house of Jeroboam. ¹⁴ Moreover, the LORD will raise up for himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam today. And henceforth, ¹⁵ the LORD will strike Israel as a reed is shaken in the water,



1st Kings 14:1–20

and root up Israel out of this good land that he gave to their fathers and scatter them beyond the Euphrates, because they have made their Asherim, provoking the LORD to anger. ¹⁶ And he will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he sinned and made Israel to sin.” ¹⁷ Then Jeroboam’s wife arose and departed and came to Tirzah. And as she came to the threshold of the house, the child died. ¹⁸ And all Israel buried him and mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD,



1st Kings 14:1–20

which he spoke by his servant Ahijah the prophet. ¹⁹ Now 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. ²⁰ And the time that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years. And he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his place.

Deuteronomy 28:58-59 ESV

⁵⁸ If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the LORD your God, ⁵⁹ then the LORD will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting.

James 5:16 ESV

...confess our sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed...

“Jeroboam wants the help of the word in the emergencies of life but not the rule of the word over the course of life. He desires only the occasional word of God. He wants the word of God for his crisis but not for his routine or practice. He craves light in his trouble but not on his path.”

Dale Ralph Davis

Dale Ralph Davis, *The Wisdom and the Folly: An Exposition of the Book of First Kings*, (Geanies House, Fearn; Ross-shire, Great Britain: Christian Focus, 2002), 162.



Hebrews 11:6 ESV

...without faith it is impossible to please [God]...

Psalm 51:5 ESV

...I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Matthew 2:16 ESV

all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region
who were two years old or under,

Deuteronomy 32:4 ESV

The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice.
A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright
is he.

“[The Reason] God has given us this relentless catalog of human stupidity and failure [is] so that we can comprehend just how big of a mess we are in.”

J. Gary Millar

J Gary Millar, “1-2 Kings” in *ESV Expository Commentary Vol 3: 1 Samuel – 2 Chronicles*, ed. Iain M. Duguid, James M. Hamilton Jr., & Jay Sklar, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2019), 650.



1st Kings 14:22-24 ESV

...Judah did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins that they committed, more than all that their fathers had done. For they also built for themselves high places and pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, and there were also male cult prostitutes in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations that the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.

1st Kings 15:4-5 ESV

Nevertheless, for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, setting up his son after him, and establishing Jerusalem, because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

Mark 1:15 ESV

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.