

1 Kings 14 - Thursday, November 12th, 2015

1 At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick. 2 And Jeroboam said to his wife, "Please arise, and disguise yourself, that they may not recognize you as the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh. Indeed, Ahijah the prophet is there, who told me that I would be king over this people. 3 Also take with you ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him; he will tell you what will become of the child."

- What Jeroboam does here is most interesting and this for a number of reasons not the least of which is he knows he's a fraud.
- By that I mean, for him to turn to God and a prophet of God when his son falls ill exposes the truth that his idols are false gods.
- In other words, when Jeroboam is faced with the reality of his son's death, he knows his false gods cannot do anything for him.

- For Jeroboam to have his wife disguise herself, and take a poor mans offering so that he won't be found out is downright stupid.
- The reason being is prophet's of God usually have supernatural discernment and as such can see right through guys like this.
- Actually this is exactly what happens, as we'll see here shortly. The point being is disobedience makes rebellious people stupid.

F.B. Meyer - "How foolish! Jeroboam thought that the old prophet could penetrate the veil that hid the future, but not the disguise in which his wife wished to conceal herself."

Adam Clarke - "It would have been more pious if he had begged the prophet's prayers, and cast away his idols from him; then the child might have been restored to him, as his hand was. But most people would rather be told their fortune than their faults or their duty."

- Its passages like this one that make me wonder about the word faith and prosperity teachers. Do they know that they're false?
- It would sure seem that they do, when they do what Jeroboam does, and try to disguise themselves so they're not found out.
- A while back I heard of a well-known faith teacher being diagnosed with cancer, and you should've heard him try to explain it.

4 And Jeroboam's wife did so; she arose and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were glazed by reason of his age. 5 Now the LORD had said to Ahijah, "Here is the wife of Jeroboam, coming to ask you something about her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus you shall say to her; for it will be, when she comes in, that she will pretend to be another woman." 6 And so it was, when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps as she came through the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another person? For I have been sent to you with bad news.

- While this is sort of sad, I have to admit that I find it a little bit humorous in the sense that they both think they can pull this off.
- What makes it so humorous and sad is what Ahijah couldn't see physically with his eyes, the Lord reveals to him in his spirit.
- To me this speaks to the importance of spiritual sight over physical sight such that it's really spiritual discernment that's needed.

Of this one commentator noted that, "The woman's disguise and Ahijah's blindness didn't matter, because God told Ahijah the truth of the matter. ...From this, the wife of Jeroboam learned two things. First, that the news was bad. Second, that though she thought she was sent to Ahijah by her husband, in truth Ahijah was sent by God with a message to her and Jeroboam."

Hebrews 4:13 - Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

7 Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you ruler 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 as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes; 9 but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back—10 therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel, bond and free; I will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as one takes away refuse until it is all gone. 11 The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the LORD has spoken!" ' 12 Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. 13 And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

- It's important to understand that Jeroboam had completely turned away from, and forgotten all about, the true and living God.
- Not only did he turn away from God, he turned to false gods and worship and led the Israelites into his fake religious system.
- It's for this reason that disaster will come upon his house, his son will die, and dogs and birds will eat whoever belongs to him.
- Sadly, this is exactly what happens when in about 300 years, this prophecy is fulfilled and Israel is taken into exile because of it.
- However, it's interesting to note that his son would die and be the only descendant of Jeroboam who is buried and mourned.
- The reason I point this out is because; this son must have been younger than, what we refer to as, the age of accountability.

One commentator wrote, "Jeroboam sent his wife to discover the fate of his son. The bad news was that the child would die. Yet his death would be a demonstration of mercy, because at least he would be buried in honor and properly mourned. Such great judgment was coming upon the house of Jeroboam that all would see that by comparison, this son was blessed in his death."

14 "Moreover the LORD will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam; this is the day. What? Even now! 15 For the LORD will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River, because they have made their wooden images, provoking the LORD to anger. 16 And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin." 17 Then Jeroboam's wife arose and departed, and came to Tirzah. When she came to the threshold of the house, the child died. 18 And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through His servant Ahijah the prophet.

- I want to point something out here, which we actually talked about last week and it has to do with the accuracy of prophecy.
- Such is the case here with the immediate confirming of the accuracy of this prophecy concerning Israel, which is yet future.
- The immediate death of Jeroboam's son was a confirmation of the yet future prophecy, which is often times what God does.

19 Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he made war and how he reigned, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. 20 The period that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years. So he rested with his fathers. Then Nadab his son reigned in his place. 21 And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king. He reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess.

- Here we're told Jeroboam died at the relatively young age of 58, which seems to indicate that his death was God's judgment.
- The reason I mention that is because often times, God will bring about the death of those who continually do evil in His sight.
- Not only does God bring about the death of those who are evil, sometimes he even brings about the death of the righteous too.

Isaiah 57:1-2 (NKJV) — 1 The righteous perishes, And no man takes it to heart; Merciful men are taken away, While no one considers That the righteous is taken away from evil.

22 Now Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, more than all that their fathers had done. 23 For they also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. 24 And there were also perverted persons in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. 25 It happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem.

- If you're anything like me and I think you are it's rather difficult to imagine God's people could descending into such perversion.
- At the risk of being too graphic, it's believed these we're orgies with the most base forms of sexual perversion and immorality.
- I suppose we have passages like this in our Bibles to show us how possible it is for us as God's people to do much the same.

26 And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house; he took away everything. He also took away all the gold shields which Solomon had made. 27 Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place, and committed them to the hands of the captains of the guard, who guarded the doorway of the king's house. 28 And whenever the king entered the house of the LORD, the guards carried them, then brought them back into the guardroom. 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? 30 And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days. 31 So Rehoboam rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess. Then Abijam his son reigned in his place.

- I want to draw your attention to the mention of bronze shields replacing the gold shields after all their wealth had been taken.
- Gold in the scriptures is a picture of deity and royalty, whereas bronze is a picture of judgment, which to me is most apropos.
- This because, no longer did God reside in their midst, vis-à-vis the gold shields, rather, the judgment of was upon them instead.

One commentator aptly noted how that, "Rehoboam made in their stead shields of bronze, and with these pathetically tried to keep up former appearances. It is like souls, who, when despoiled of their freshness and power by the enemy, laboriously endeavor to keep up an outward appearance of spiritual prosperity; or, like a fallen church, shorn of its strength, and robbed of its purity, seeking to hide its helplessness, and cover its nakedness, with the tinsel of ritualism, spurious revivalism, union, and anything that promises to give them some appearance."

- When we get to 2 Chronicles we'll have a parallel account of sorts, and it will fill in some of the details of all that had happened.
- Suffice it to say, for now anyway, we have much to take away from this chapter by way of the personal application to our lives.
- Namely, disobedience and rebellion against God leads to folly and stupidity, and so to do we go from gold to bronze as it were.

- Sadly, 2 Chronicles will sum up the life of King Rehoboam with a tragic end to someone for whom it certainly needed not to be.

2 Chronicles 12:13-14 (NKJV) — 13 Thus King Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem and reigned. Now Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king; and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess. 14 And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the LORD.