

3/20/11

Never Doubt God's Judgment
1Kings 14:1-20

Jeroboam had established his own kingdom at Schechem, now it is in Tirzah, having not trusted God to establish his kingdom.

He also has established two idolatrous worship centers at Dan and Bethel to keep the people from returning to Jerusalem for the three yearly Feast and give their allegiance back to the house of David.

The prophet from Judah has prophesied judgment over his false religious alters to be desecrated by king Josiah 320 years.

And none of this deterred Jeroboam from his rebellious evil against God, in fact he appointed the common people to the priesthood, including himself. 1Kings. 13:33

* Jeroboam now finds himself in a very sad situation, as his son has become gravely sick.

We want to look at the attempt of Jeroboam to enquired from Abijah the prophet about the outcome of his ill son, which unfolds for us in three movement. 1Kings 14:1-20

- I. Jeroboam sent his wife to enquire about Abijah. vs. 1-6
 - II. Ahijah sent the wife of Jeroboam back with the message from God. vs. 7-13
 - III. Jeroboam's sin would be judged by God. vs. 14-20
- I. Jeroboam sent his wife to enquire about Abijah. vs. 1-6**
- A. The deceptive plan of Jeroboam. vs. 1-3
 1. The situation at hand was that the son of Jeroboam had become gravely sick, "At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick." vs. 1
 - a. The age of the child is not given.
 - 1) The child was probably a small child.
 - 2) The child had become debilitated perhaps through a prolonged ill.
 - b. The person in a position of great power is brought to their knees, when they can not remedy their situation with the authority or money they posses.
 - 1) Be it a tragic accident.
 - 2) Be it a deadly disease.
 - 3) Be it death.
 2. The petition of Jeroboam to his wife was to seek out the prophet of God. vs. 2
 - a. He instructed her to not go as her own person, but pretending to be someone

else, “And Jeroboam said to his wife, “Please arise, and disguise yourself, that they may not recognize you as the wife of Jeroboam.” vs. 2a-c

- 1) Man deceives himself by thinking he can hide from God.
 - 2) Man can not even hide his thoughts or intents of the heart.
- b.** He instructed her where to go, “and go to Shiloh.” vs. 2c
- 1) Shiloh was the location of the tabernacle during the time of Eli and Samuel. Josh. 18:1, 21:2, 1Sam. 1:3
 - 2) Shiloh was in Ephraim about 25 miles due south of Tirzah where they were at, about 9 miles north of Bethel.
- c.** He informed her this was the residence of the prophet, “Indeed, Ahijah the prophet is there.” vs. 2d
- 1) He was know as Ahijah the Sholonite. 1Kings. 11:29a
 - 2) Ahijah means brother of Yahweh.
- d.** He revealed to her he was the prophet who prophesied to him to be king over Israel, “who told me that I would be king over this people.” vs. 2e
- 1) He had reject the will of God and failed to trust God, so he fled to Egypt. 1Kings. 11:26-40

- 2) He returned from Egypt and rebelled against God setting up his apostate religion.
 - 3) He failed to listen to the prophet from Judah.
- 3.** The presentation of a gift for the information about their son was to be taken, “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.” vs. 3
- a.** The giving of an offering was customary, in appreciation and respect to the prophet.
 - b.** Remember Saul and his servant gave to Samuel, one fourth shekel of silver. 1Sam. 9:8c
 - c.** Most interesting that Jeroboam immediately asked for the healing of his own hand from the prophet when God withered it and received the healing, but he does not ask for the life of his first born. 1Kings. 13:4-6
 - d.** He knew the illness was from God and perhaps also knew he had gone too far and irreversible.
- B.** The divine unmasking of the deception of Jeroboam. vs. 4-6
- 1.** The woman set out on her journey, “And Jeroboam’s wife did so; she arose and

went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah.” vs. 4a-c

- a. She as a mother had to be greatly concerned about her son.
 - b. She must have been looking all around fearful that someone might encounter her.
 - c. She was certain that prophet would not recognize her.
2. The wife of Jeroboam and he had made vain preparations, “But Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were glazed by reason of his age.” vs. 4
- a. Ahijah was old and could not see well at all.
 - b. Ahijah had cataract that had built up over his eyes.
3. The word of knowledge came to the prophet from Yahweh. vs. 5
- a. He told Ahijah who she was, “Now the LORD had said to Ahijah, “Here is the wife of Jeroboam.” vs. 5a-b
 - b. He told Ahijah why she had come, “coming to ask you something about her son, for he *is* sick.” vs. 5c-d
 - c. He told Ahijah what to tell her, “Thus and thus you shall say to her.” vs. 5e
 - d. He told Ahijah she was in disguise, “for it will be, when she comes in that she will pretend to be another woman.” vs. 5f-h

4. The wife of Jeroboam was confronted by the prophet Ahijah, vs. 6
- a. He waited listening or her coming, “And so it was, when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps as she came through the door.” vs. 6a-b
 - b. He exposed her intended deception, “he said, “Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another person?” vs. 6c-d
 - c. He revealed her worst fear, “For I have been sent to you with bad news.” vs. 6e

Illustration

There is a reality program of fraudulent people individuals marry, presenting the lies and deceit that people commit against the person they marry. * Some are murderers, bank robbers, married to ten other people, etc.

Application

1. I am always amazed at the deceptive plans of people to get help from God through my 35 years of ministry. (1976-2011)
 - a. Some people will come in with the most incredible stories about their living conditions to get financial help.
 - b. Other people will lie and say they are Christian, to get help from the church.

- c. Still other people know how to work the church system, as they do the government entitlement programs. being experts at fraud.
- d. Some people lie about their mates and are found out in the counseling.
- e. But what all these people are willfully ignorant about is that God knows, sees and hears everything.

* “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Heb. 4:13

2. Then there are people who have knowingly and willfully rejected the gospel or walked away from God and when they find themselves in trouble, they ask God to help them.

- a. That is to say that God won't help them, if they are sincere and broken before God.
- b. But there are people who see God as some kind of genie or emergency God, knowing their ungodliness and evil against God and have no problem seeking the help of God.
- c. All of us as Christians have experienced friends or family members who have ridicules, mocked and rejected the gospel and us, but when they are in trouble, they call on you for help or prayer.
- d. We are to always point them to God and the gospel, God alone knows if they are sincere or acting.

* “But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.” But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.”

1Pet. 3:14-16

3. The actions of God are always just and perfect, no one ever gets dealt with unjustly, when they think they can get over on God.

- a. Nebuchadnezzar was allowed to abide as an animal for some seasons, until he acknowledge that God rules in kingdom of men. Dan. 4:16-17
- b. Gehazi, the servant of Elisha was plagued with the leprosy of Naaman for seeking wealth and lying to Elisha. 2Kings 5:21-27
- c. Ananias and Sapphira thought to pass themselves off a benevolent people, saying they had give all the proceeds of the property they sold and God struck them dead. Acts 5:1-10

Jeroboam sent his wife to enquire about Abijah, thinking he could fool God!

II. Ahijah sent the wife of Jeroboam back with the message from God. vs. 7-13

A. The judgment for the high privilege

Jeroboam had been given by God. vs. 7-8

1. His wife was to remind Jeroboam that God had chosen him to be a vessel of honor, “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.” vs. 7
 - a. God is the One who exalts individuals to certain positions.
 - b. God appoints individuals to rule “nagid”, meaning as a prince to oversee the people of God, they do not belong to him.
2. His wife was to remind Jeroboam that God had chosen him to be a vessel of judgment over the house of David, “and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you.’ vs. 8a-b
 - a. The house of David would be left with two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, the southern kingdom.
 - b. The tearing away was ten tribes, the northern kingdom.
3. His wife was to remind Jeroboam that God had chosen him to be a vessel of obedience as David, “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.” vs. 8c-e

- a. David is the constant high standard for all the Kings.
 - b. Like David to obey and follow with all his heart.
- ### B. The judgment for the evil committed would come from God. vs. 9-11
1. The greater guilt of Jeroboam, “but you have done more evil than all who were before you.” vs. 9a
 - a. He had the choice to not be like them.
 - b. He chose to be worst than them.
 2. The specific sin of Jeroboam. vs. 9b-c
 - a. Idolatry breaking the first two commandments, “for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger.” vs. 9b
 - b. Abandoning and denying God, indicative of “casting Me behind your back”, utter disrespect, “and have cast Me behind your back.” vs. 9c
 3. The verdict passed over Jeroboam. vs. 10
 - a. The complete destruction of his house, “therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam.” vs. 10a
 - b. The name of Jeroboam to be removed, “and will cut off from Jeroboam every

male in Israel, bond and free.” vs. 10b-c

- c. The sin of Jeroboam was loathsome and would be stopped, “I will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as one takes away refuse until it is all gone.” vs. 10d-e

4. The dishonor would be to be left unburied. vs. 11

- a. Devoured by roaming scavenger dogs, “The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city.” vs. 11a
- b. Desecrated by not being buried, “and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the LORD has spoken!” vs. 11b-c

C. The judgment would exclude the child. vs. 12-13

- 1. The child would die physically, “Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die.” vs. 12
 - a. The exact time would verify the death would be from the hand of God.
 - b. The judgment would seem to be unjust from the human perspective, but God is holy and perfect, so our conclusion is wrong.

2. The child would not die spiritually. vs. 13

- a. The loss of the child would be lamented, “And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him.” vs. 13a
- b. The child was under the age of knowledge and protected by God, “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.” vs. 13
 - * “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.” Is. 57:1

Illustration

I know of a Pastor who lied, stole money and carried on an inappropriate relationship with another woman and her daughter and ultimately the consequences came upon him, he lost his church.

* He was deceiving himself all along, he knew better!

Application

1. Every person who God has called to be used by Him, just like Jeroboam, will be judged by Him for rejecting the call.

- a. God has called individuals out from among the people, just like Jeroboam, to care for God's people and oversee them, but they simply used and abused the people.
 - b. God has promised to bless their ministries, just like Jeroboam, but they have not trusted God and have become manipulators and creative in their programs and methodologies to produce and manufacture ministry.
 - c. God called them to obey His leading and direction for ministry, but they chose their own vision and have built their kingdom.
2. God will judge those individuals who have committed evil in their misrepresentation of God.
- a. Setting up a false system and teaching of worship, ignoring the teaching of the word of God.
 - b. Not teaching holiness and the sanctified life, therefore sexual sin tolerated, even committed by them, corrupting the people.
 - c. Yet God in His mercy and grace will lead individuals out of such churches, if their hearts are towards God and not man.
 - d. These individuals are only fooling themselves, for God sees all their evil.
- * "Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?" And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his

household, to give them their portion of food in due season? "Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." Lk. 12:41-48

Ahijah sent the wife of Jeroboam back with the message from God, having only fooled himself!

**III. Jeroboam's sin would be judged by God.
vs. 14-20**

- A.** The judgment over Israel would be certain. vs. 14-16
- 1.** God prophesied He would use a king of Israel to execute His judgment over Jeroboam, “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!” vs. 14
 - a.** The king would be Baasha the son of Ahijah. 1Kings 15:28-29
 - b.** The prophecy declared simply beforehand what Baasha would do, but God did not make him do the evil.
 - 2.** God prophesied He would judge Israel by allowing them to go into captivity. vs. 15
 - a.** They would not be able to resist God, “For the LORD will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water.” vs. 15a-b
 - b.** They would be taken by Assyria in 722 B.C. , “He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River.” vs. 15c-d
* The River is the Euphrates and was fulfilled. 2Kings 17:6, 18:11
 - c.** They would be judged for their idolatry, “because they have made their wooden images, provoking the LORD to anger.” vs. 15e-f

- 3.** God prophesied against Israel, “And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin.” vs. 16
 - a.** The northern kingdom was Israel.
 - b.** The king of Israel was Jeroboam.
- B.** The judgment of Israel would be confirmed by the death of the child. vs. 17-20
- 1.** The prophecy came true. vs. 17-18
 - a.** The death of the child, “Then Jeroboam’s wife arose and departed, and came to Tirzah. When she came to the threshold of the house, the child died.” vs. 17
 - b.** The funeral of the child, “And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him.” vs. 18a-b
 - c.** The prophecy was of God, “according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through His servant Ahijah the prophet.” vs. 18c
 - 2.** The prophecy did not deter Jeroboam from his evil. vs. 19-20
 - a.** The summary statement, “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.” vs. 19

* We have the chronicles of the kings of Judah, but not Israel. 2Chron. 13

- b. The length of his reign, “The period that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years. So he rested with his fathers. Then Nadab his son reigned in his place.” vs. 20

* His son Nadab was just as evil!

Illustration

It has been said that God does not settle all His accounts in one day, but one day He will settle all of His accounts.

Application

1. There are plenty of examples in the Scriptures of God dealing with individual for their sin and evil.
 - a. Cain was given a mark that no one kill him and he was to be a bagabond, removed from the presence of God. Gen. 4:11-16
 - b. Belshazzar saw his judgment written on the wall for his arrogance against God and defiling the vessels of God in his drunken feast and was slain that night, just as Daniel interpreted the writing. Dan. 5
2. There are plenty of example in the Scriptures and history that God judges nations for their evil, persecution of Israel and rejection of the gospel.

- a. God judged the nation of Egypt for their treatment of the Jews and it has never been a world power since, look at it.
- b. God chastened His own nation by a more evil nation, Babylon, then He Judged Babylon for going beyond what they should of done. Jer. 51:61-64
- c. God judged Germany for her evil against the Jews.
- d. England was once a world empire, as she preached the gospel and sent missionaries all over the world, as she rejected the gospel, she has been reduced to a little island and a prisoner to Islam.
 - * Yet she use to boast that the sun never went down on her empire!
- e. The United States is becoming anti-Christian and has turned its back on Israel for the first time under President Obama’s administration.
 - * Do we think, we will escape the judgment of God?
- f. The first thing Jesus will do at His return before setting up His Kingdom is to judge the nations, as to how they treated the Jew during the 7 years of tribulation, separating the sheep from the goats. Matt. 25:31-32
 - * The principle was given to Abraham, I will **ble**ss those who **ble**ss you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in

you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Gen. 12:3

3. The prophecies of the return of Jesus to judge the world are in the word of God to warn people and nations and they are true.
- a. The judgment of God in the Days of Noah is a warning and guarantee of the coming judgment!
 - b. The judgment of Sodom and Gamorrah is another warning and guarantee of the coming judgment!
 - c. The judgment of Israel when they rejected Jesus as their Messiah is another warning and guarantee of the coming judgment!
- * “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of

Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”
Rev. 19:11-16

Jeroboam’s sin would be judged by God, having played the fool!

Conclusion

This is the attempt of Jeroboam to enquire from Ahijah the prophet about the outcome of his ill son:

- I. Jeroboam sent his wife to enquire about Abijah, thinking he could fool God!
- II. Ahijah sent the wife of Jeroboam back with the message from God, having only fooled himself!
- III. Jeroboam’s sin would be judged by God, having played the fool!