

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to 1 Kings 14

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through 1 Kings

And we are currently in the portion of 1 Kings where we find a divided kingdom.

You have the tribe of Benjamin and Judah in the south – who are ruled by Rehoboam (Solomon's son)

And then you have the remaining 10 tribes in the north – these are the tribes known as Israel (Northern Kingdom) – they are ruled by Jeroboam – who we saw last week as he pretty much sets up his own religion.

He got the people to worship golden calves

He appointed priests for his religion and came up with new holy days for the people to observe.

Last week in our study in chapter 13 – we saw that God send a man of God to warn Jeroboam and told him that what he was doing was not pleasing to the Lord and clearly told him that the Lord was going to destroy his altars –

And after giving Jeroboam a glimpse of what God was going to do – and after God extended grace and mercy towards Jeroboam – Jeroboam failed to repent and do what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

Let's pray...

[1Ki 14:1-31 NKJV] 1 At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick.

At that time – is in reference to the time period after what we studied last week.

After Jeroboam failed to repent.

His son Abijah becomes sick.

And the text kind of gives us a hint that Abijah was a young boy.

We are not told what he was sick of and the reason that we are not given that detail is because it really doesn't matter.

The focus is that he was sick.

And the reason that this is a big deal is because to a king – everything is about the succession of power.

Which one of my sons is going to be the next king – that is how a monarchy works.

For Jeroboam – he has to begin to wonder how he is going to pass on the lineage.

Now, remember that in the Old Testament we have plenty of examples where we see sickness as a result of God's judgment.

We just saw last week Jeroboam's hand was withered by God and then restored

David and Bathsheba's son –

[2Sa 12:15 NKJV] 15 Then Nathan departed to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill.

Another example is Miriam – Moses' sister. She questions Moses leadership, and she was struck with leprosy.

The first born in Egypt – judgment came upon the nation of Egypt because the sin of Pharaoh.

And even in the New Testament –

[Jhn 9:1-2 NKJV] 1 Now as [Jesus] passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

The disciples understood that often times God's judgment, under the Old Covenant, came against a family because of the sin of one man.

And so it seems that this is an illness that has been brought up because of Jeroboam's sin.

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.

Now – don’t get the names mixed up –

Abijah is the son of Jeroboam who was sick

Ahijah is the prophet who had an encounter with Jeroboam back in Ch 11 -

He was the one who tore his jacket and gave 10 pieces to Jeroboam as an illustration of what God was giving him.

He wants his wife to disguise herself and seek this prophet who he knows that he is from God.

Jeroboam is being deceitful

He refuses to follow God

But because he is in trouble he seeks one of His servants to find answers

Now, think about this

What good are the answers, if in the end the individual has no desire to submit to the one who is giving him the answers.

What good is wanting to know the future if you really don’t want to do anything about it.

Because ultimately as we will see – that is all the Jeroboam cares about.

All he wants is answers instead of wanting a solution.

And sometimes we fall into that same mindset.

Why is God allowing this to happen?

Why is this taking place?

What are we looking for – answers

Instead of the solution – which is, “What does God want from me?”

The Apostle Paul – on the road to Damascus

His first words out of his mouth after his conversion were - “Lord, what do You want me to do?”

Translation – now that I am saved, how can I submit myself to Your will

Jeroboam has no desire to submitting to God’s will.

He just wants to know what is going to happen.

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."

Once again, Jeroboam has no desire to submit to the Lord – so what else does he do.

He send her with gifts in an attempt to manipulate God

God doesn't want cakes or honey or sacrifices – He wants all of our heart.

And here is the thing church – we can't say that we love God with all of our heart and not walk in obedience or not submit to His will.

What Jeroboam asks his wife to ask the prophet reveals a lot.

Notice that he doesn't want her to ask for intercession for the child

He doesn't want her to get council from him

He doesn't send her with the news to go tell him that he has repented

All he cares about is – my son going to live or die

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.

The scriptures do not reveal anything about the character of Jeroboam's wife.

We don't know if she was like Jeroboam – we don't know if she also walked in rebellion to God.

She could gone along with it – not because she cared about the lineage to the throne but because she cared about her son.

But how much better would it have been if she would have gone there seeking the solution instead of simply seeking the answer.

She could have said -

My husband is seeking this answer – but I want to know what God wants.

I want to know the solution.

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]. 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;

The message that God has for Jeroboam through this prophet is a reminder of how –

He blessed Jeroboam

He gave Jeroboam the opportunity to serve Him

He gave Jeroboam the opportunity to be great – remember, God gives Jeroboam the same promise that He gave David – all Jeroboam had to do was walk in His statutes.

But Jeroboam squandered it

He didn't serve God – as a faithful servant, he served himself, he served idols, he set up his own religion

Church,

Never forget the awesome privilege that we have been given to be His servant.

Turn with me to Rom 11

[Rom 11:16-22 NKJV] 16 For if the firstfruit [is] holy, the lump [is] also [holy]; and if the root [is] holy, so [are] the branches. 17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, 18 do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, [remember that] you do not support the root, but the root [supports] you. 19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." 20 Well [said]. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. 22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell,

severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in [His] goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

What Paul is reminding us here in Romans

Is that we have been given privilege

The branches that were broken off were concerning the Jews that rejected Jesus

We have been grafted unto the tree – we can't brag against them

We have been given privilege to serve Him and not to go about doing our own thing.

And sometimes we squander the privilege that has been given to us when we pursue what we want instead of what God wants for us.

Paul writes in

[Eph 4:1 NKJV] 1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

And we do this day after day

Jeroboam failed to walk worthy of the calling which he was called.

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!" '

In other words – the destruction and removal of Jeroboam's lineage is going to be so complete that there will not be any dead bodies to bury.

The dogs are going to eat the bodies and the birds are going to pick at the carcasses – there will be nothing left.

Now – remember last week when we were talking about the man of God who blew it and God sent a lion to kill him and God's judgment was that the man of God was going to be buried there.

One of the things that I mentioned was how the lion did not eat the man of God

Because defiling the body was a curse in itself

And we had a question as to why didn't Jeroboam get judged.

So – here Jeroboam gets double judgment

Not only does he not have a legacy

But now – his body is defiled – because for the Jew that was a big thing.

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.**

This is an interesting statement that I had you highlight here at the end of verse 13

God takes the life of the son – this boy isn't all bad

And because of it – God allows him to be honored by having a proper burial.

Some people will say – if he was good why would God take his life?

And the truth is – sometimes the innocent die because of the sins of others

Now – ask yourself, “Who is at fault here?”

Is God being unjust or is this Jeroboam's fault?

If it were not for Jeroboam's sin – this boy did not have to die

But now he has to –

Why?

He has to die because otherwise the lineage would have continued

Think about Jonathon – David's friend.

Why did he have to die, he was a great guy

Why did he have to die?

Because if he didn't die – Saul's lineage would have continued -there would have been a challenge to the throne.

The nation might have demanded that Jonathon should be king

So he had to die so the lineage would be broken

Same as this young boy

But why does he have to die? Because his father refused to repent.

This is how sin affects us. Even other's people's sin.

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."

This is in reference to the final judgment on the Northern Kingdom.

When God sends the Assyrians who come in and take them away into captivity.

This judgment is because of Jeroboam's sin

Because he set up the alternative form of worship

And the people of Israel never repent of the sin – in fact, they start worshipping other pagan gods as well to go along with the worship of the golden calves

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. 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.

Nadab reigns only 2 years, then he's deposed by Baasha of the tribe of Issachar who wipes out Jeroboam's entire house – just as Ahijah foretold.

And we will read about that next week.

Now, let's look at Rehoboam – the King of Judah

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. 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.

So – here in these verses we see that Rehoboam – this is Solomon’s son, he is doing his best to lead the people of Judah in rebellion to the Lord.

Not only are they practicing idolatry because of what Solomon did –

They are also adopting the alternative form of worship that the Northern Kingdom had.

And they had the temple in their midst and they were still worshipping the way they wanted.

Their actions proved God to be jealous

Now, God’s jealousy is because He knows what sin is doing to these people – what sin is robbing the people of.

Turn to 2 Cor 11

[2Co 11:2-4 NKJV] 2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to

Christ. 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or [if] you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!

Paul is afraid here that the love of these believers is being directed into other things – caught up in other things – wrong things – things that have nothing to do with the Lord – anything that takes our eyes off the Lord

God is jealous of our love in those moments.

Because all these things rob us from our intimacy with Him.

They rob us from the blessing that He wants to bestow upon our lives.

25 It happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam [that] Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. 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.

So judgment comes upon Judah –

They turned their back on the Lord –

The Lord allows them to be attacked by Egypt – think about Solomon making all the treaties with the nations around them – marrying their daughters.

Now, they are attacking Judah.

The King of Egypt assembles an army of nation to come against Judah

The gold shields that Solomon had made with all the gold he was collecting just like that – gone.

You might read 2 Chron 12 (give us a little more insight on this attack) and the attack was a result of Rehoboam turning his back on the Lord.

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.

What Rehoboam was doing here is that he was trying to make it appear like nothing had changed.

He was doing the same thing that Solomon did with the shields – putting on a show for the people

But everything had changed

God had removed His divine protection & blessing.

The same happens today. God's blessing is all over a church or movement.

His presence is rich & powerful. But then hearts stray from Him and the blessing departs.

The glory fades.

What do the people do?

They make-up a cheap imitation

They go through the motions of what used to be so powerful & filled with the presence & power of God – but He's not in it.

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.

The writer of 1 Kings also reminds us that when Rehoboam died, he was buried next to his mother who was an Ammonite –

A reminder of where this all started from – from Solomon marrying the foreign wives that began the road of spiritual decline to the people of Judah.

Regarding Rehoboam –

This verse sums up his life.

2 Chron 12:14

[2Ch 12:14 NKJV] 14 And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the LORD.

He did not have a relationship with the Lord –

If we are not preparing our hearts to seek the Lord, we are going to be drawn to sin and sinful things.

We are going to be given over to compromise

We are going to be given over to the things that we want to do that are contrary to the Word of God

We need to prepare our hearts to seek the Lord –

And how do we do that?–

well we are doing it here tonight

We seek Him out in everything that we are doing

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

