

1 KINGS 14:1-18 | BAD NEWS FROM AHIJAH

VERSE 1-5 | JEROBOAM'S TRUST ISSUES AND SICK SON

VERSE 1 –

In 1 Kings 14:1, Abijah is introduced as the son of Jeroboam, who was the first king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel after the kingdom was divided. The text tells us that Abijah is sick, although it is not clear what his illness is. This brief mention of Abijah sets the stage for the events that follow in the chapter, which include a visit from the prophet Ahijah, who brings bad news from God about the future of Jeroboam's family.

VERSE 2 –

In 1 Kings 14:1-18, we see Jeroboam sending his wife to visit Ahijah, a prophet of God, to inquire about the fate of their sick son Abijah. This is an unusual move, as Jeroboam himself had appointed his own prophets to serve his kingdom. By seeking out Ahijah, Jeroboam may be signaling his lack of trust in his own prophets and his desire for a more direct message from God. Furthermore, Jeroboam instructs his wife to disguise herself so that Ahijah will not recognize her. This may be because Jeroboam fears that Ahijah will condemn his idolatrous practices, which have been a consistent theme throughout his reign. Note 1 Kings 11:29 and following for background.

VERSE 3 –

The gift that Jeroboam gave to Ahijah may have been an attempt to win his favor or to show respect for his position as a prophet of God, but the text does not indicate any specific meaning behind the gift.

VERSES 4-5 –

Despite being partially blind, Ahijah receives revelation from God and has insight into the situation before the disguised queen arrives.

These verses remind us that hurting people don't always make the wisest decisions, but almost always have a renewed and sometimes excessive desire to hear the word they want to hear from God.

VERSES 6-18 | JEROBOAM'S HOUSE FALLS: WHEN IDOLATRY AND DISOBEDIENCE MEET THEIR MATCH

VERSE 6 -

The Queen receives a sudden and ominous greeting, which suggests that God is not on their side.

VERSES 7-9 -

In 1 Kings 14:7-9, Ahijah delivers God's message to Jeroboam's wife, stating that Jeroboam was given everything, including a new kingdom, but instead of reciprocating with an obedient reign, he was exceedingly sinful. This condemnation of Jeroboam's behavior was influenced by his initial idolatry, as well as his subsequent actions to solidify his power, such as appointing his own priests and instituting a new religious system to prevent his people from traveling to Jerusalem to worship. These actions were in direct opposition to God's commands and were seen as a betrayal of the covenant between God and the Israelites.

VERSES 10-11 -

Verse 10 speaks of an impending calamity, and it is written in a crude manner. It specifically mentions three groups:

1. Those who "pisseth against the wall". This phrase is used six times in the text, and it seems to refer more to less-refined males than all males in general.
2. Those who are "shut up and left in Israel". This likely refers to those who remain in strongholds when the enemy comes.

3. Any "remnant of the house of Jeroboam". This serves as a catch-all for anyone left behind.

Verse 11 concludes the pending calamity with a show of God's disrespect and anger over what Jeroboam has done.

---

#### VERSES 12 - 13 -

Ahijah goes on to tell Jeroboam's wife that her sick son, Abijah, will die as soon as she returns home. However, Ahijah then gives her some surprising news: Abijah's death will actually be a blessing from God. Because he is part of Jeroboam's family, God will take him before he can grow up to participate in the sins of his father's house, sparing him from the judgment that will come upon Jeroboam and his descendants. Additionally, Ahijah tells the queen that Abijah will be mourned and given a proper burial, something that would not be possible for his father or other members of his family.

It is interesting to note that the text in 1 Kings 14 does not provide much information about the character or background of Abijah, the sick son of Jeroboam. The text only mentions his illness and his impending death, which is portrayed as a blessing from God to spare him from the judgment that will come upon Jeroboam's family. It would be intriguing to know more about Abijah's personality, his relationship with his parents, and the good things that the Lord saw in him. Unfortunately, the scripture does not tell us much about Abijah beyond his illness and his prophesied death.

---

#### VERSES 14-16 -

These verses predict and elaborate upon the doom that is coming. God will send a new king who will overthrow the house of Jeroboam, and this is certain. Furthermore, not only Jeroboam but all of Israel has now passed the point of no return (v. 16), and the fate of the entire kingdom is sealed. Although the fate has been decreed, it will not happen immediately.

---

#### VERSES 17-18

What God says, **Go** **The Spirit aids the Jewish remnant which is waiting for its redemption (v. 25) but, in the time of waiting does not even know how to pray. The Spirit takes the groanings of Israel (v. 23) and communicates those groanings which cannot be uttered to the Father.** **d will do.**

There are archaeological remains of Tirzah from the Divided Kingdom era, including a palace and other buildings. Excavations have been conducted at the site, which is located in the northern part of the West Bank. However, the site is not currently accessible to tourists due to its location in a politically sensitive area.

---

### 1 KINGS 14:19-20 | THE DEATH OF JEROBOAM

---

#### VERSE 19 -

The life of Jeroboam includes much more than we have recorded in Scripture. In 1 Kings 14:19, the phrase "the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel" refers to a historical record or a collection of written accounts documenting the reigns and significant events of the kings of Israel. It is believed to be a reference to an official royal record or a compilation of historical documents that chronicled the history of the Israelite monarchy.

This phrase appears several times in the Old Testament, particularly in the books of Kings and Chronicles, to indicate a source of historical information. The "book of the chronicles" was likely a written record maintained by the royal scribes or historians, recording the important events, achievements, and genealogies of the kings of Israel. It provided a historical account of the Israelite monarchy and served as a reference for future generations.

It's important to note that the specific contents of the "book of the chronicles" mentioned in the Bible are not available to us today.

While the Bible is the only inspired book with God's revelation, it is important to note that it does not prohibit studying other books. In fact, it is encouraged to seek out information that the Bible may not explicitly reveal.

Jeroboam reigned in the late 10th century BC, from approximately 931 to 910 BC.