

30 AMAZING BIBLE STORIES YOU MAY NOT KNOW #30 The Most Famous Prophet You've Never Heard Of

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THE MOST IMPORTANT MEN OF ALL TIME

- According to Jewish Rabbinical tradition, there are seven men who span the entire history from the beginning of creation through Messiah (with a little fine print!)
 - Adam > Methuselah > Shem > Jacob > Amram > Ahijah > Elijah
 - Since Elijah did not die, his “life” stretches to the time of Messiah.
 - Note that the first three are easily attested. The last four become more difficult. Ahijah requires trust in the rabbinical tradition. This information is simply to point out that he is in the list of “who’s who” and we don’t even know him.
- With the exception of Ahijah, most of us could tell *something* about these men. But Ahijah is lost in obscurity.

HIS MOST FAMOUS PROPHECY | 2 CHRONICLES 10:1-15

- Verses 1-5 – Jeroboam returns from Egypt to inquire of the new King about the future.
- Verses 6-11 – King Rehoboam gets advice and chooses to abuse his people.
- Verses 12-15 – The King announces his decision, and the Bible announces *why* he made this decision: **that the Lord might perform his word which he spake by the hand of Ahijah** (v. 15).

WHAT WORD DID GOD SPEAK THROUGH AHIJAH? | 1 KINGS 11:28-39

- Verse 28 – Jeroboam rises in influence.
- Verses 29-30 – The prophecy of Ahijah given in illustration: *the rending of the new garment*.
- Verses 31-36 – Ten tribes prophesied to break away.
- Verses 37-39 – Jeroboam prophesied to have the Kingdom of Israel.

WHAT ELSE DO WE KNOW ABOUT THIS MAN?

- He was the grandson of Eli – 1 Samuel 14:3
- He was instructed by King Saul to bring forth the Ark of the Covenant in a battle with the Philistines, in order to instill fear in the enemy – 1 Samuel 14:18
- Under King David, he was placed in charge of the **treasures of the house of God** – 1 Chronicles 26:20.
- The scripture tells us that he wrote a book of the acts of Solomon. This book has now been lost to history - 2 Chronicles 9:29.

HOW DOES JEROBOAM’S STORY END?

- “Of all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these: *it might have been.*” -John Greenleaf Whittier
- 1 Kings 11:38 was an unbelievable promise to Jeroboam, who appears to be an unbelievably impressive young man.
- Rather than follow the Lord, he set up places of pagan worship (including an idol of a golden calf) in Bethel and Dan. He used non-Levitical priests for this worship. Because of this, Ahijah’s last prophecy was of the destruction of the Kingdom of Israel. 1 Kings 14:1-16.

A FEW LESSONS FROM AHIJAH

- History forgets even very memorable men.
 - Four books of the Bible mention him, in eight chapters, with over 20 references to his name.
 - His lifespan is huge, spanning the entire united monarchy, with time on either side.
- Live life for what you can accomplish, not for what you will be remembered for. One is a PR stunt, the other is real substance.
- History *could have gone* a very different way. We will never know what would have happened if Jeroboam had been faithful to the Lord. Live your own life to *change history for the better*.