

1 Kings Chapter 14 Commentary

1Ki 14:1 ¶ "At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick. 2 And Jeroboam said to his wife, Arise, I pray thee, and disguise thyself, that thou be not known to be the wife of Jeroboam; and get thee to Shiloh: behold, there is Ahijah the prophet, which told me that I should be king over this people. 3 And take with thee ten loaves, and cracknels, and a cruse of honey, and go to him: he shall tell thee what shall become of the child."

Jeroboam's son Abijah becomes sick, which is a warning from God to turn Jeroboam from idolatry; since Jeroboam is continuing in idolatry, after God has warned him of the outcome in the previous chapter.

There is a warning here for us today. When sickness and afflictions come upon us, we should examine our lives for sin which rejects God. If we find no sin, or are not warned of our sin by others, then we can know that the affliction is just a trial of our faith and trust in God. Remember, **Joh 16:33** "*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*"

Jeroboam sends his wife to the prophet Ahijah, telling her that the prophet of the Lord will tell her what the outcome of Abijah will be. He also tells her to disguise herself, so she is not known. She is to take gifts to the prophet, which was customary for that time, when one went to inquire of a prophet. It is interesting, when God brings sickness into a family, like Jeroboam who had no use for God, oftentimes they will remember there is a God.

There is a warning here for us also. How often do people come to a minister of God, or announce publicly an unspoken request for prayer, which they are not willing to tell what they need prayer for? If one is unwilling to admit the thing they want prayer for, they are coming in disguise to the minister. After all, if you get a request to pray, and do not know the reason, they may be asking you to pray for something that should not be prayed for. The minister will know whether to pray for their request or not. People who have these requests for unspoken prayers with the reason hidden, always have the option to speak to the minister in private, and the minister will know if it is something to be prayed for, and will use discretion as necessary to mention, or not mention, a person's name, and the cause for the prayer, in a public setting.

We point out that Jeroboam tells his wife to disguise herself. Jeroboam has forgotten that God knows and sees all things. We would do well to remember this ourselves, because we cannot hide anything from God, as seen in **Pr 15:3 ¶** "*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*" And in **Heb 4:12** "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*" Not only does God know our thoughts but the intents of our hearts.

God is now beginning to deal with this rebellious idolater through providence, for his son is made sick. Obviously, Jeroboam has already tried his false idols for healing to no avail. Now, he remembers the prophet of God who told him he would be king over the ten tribes. He knows that the prophet of God will not tell a lie, nor deceive him, but tell it as it will be.

There is a warning here. Idols have no power and cannot do anything. We should remember this, as sword of defense, to keep us from turning from God to idolatry. Likewise, we should always remember that there is only one true and living God, who doeth as He will in heaven and upon the earth.

The devil always works in disguise and in deceitfulness. We point out that Satan is always trying to present himself in the stead of God, attempting to get people to worship him. Notice, that Jeroboam named his son Abijah, just one letter different from the prophet Ahijah. Both names have different meanings. Abijah, the son of Jeroboam, means **father (or worshiper) of Jah**. This name is what Satan desires, to be acknowledged to be the father of God, and desires that all people worship him. Ahijah, the prophet of God, means **brother (or worshipper) of Jah**. The name Ahijah claims kinship to God and declares that he worships God. Its definition demonstrates submission to God, unlike Abijah which claims preeminence over God.

4 "And Jeroboam's wife did so, and arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age. 5 And the LORD said unto Ahijah, Behold, the wife of Jeroboam cometh to ask a thing of thee for her son; for he is sick: thus, and thus shalt thou say unto her: for it shall be, when she cometh in, that she shall feign herself to be another woman. 6 And it was so, when Ahijah

heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said, Come in, thou wife of Jeroboam; why feignest thou thyself to be another? for I am sent to thee with heavy tidings."

Jeroboam's wife comes to the house of Ahijah, who is blind because of his old age. However, God tells Ahijah what is going on and what he is to answer. Ahijah hears her footsteps coming into his house and he tells her who she is, and he tells her that he has bad news for her to carry to her husband Jeroboam.

The principle of disguise is the work of the devil. However, we point out that God is not deceived by the deceptive work of the devil. This is one reason that we are to know the whole word of God. Why we are to read and study the whole King James Bible, that we be not deceived by the disguises of sin from Satan. Some will say: but God spoke to Ahijah and warned him. If your mind is filled with the Word of God, The Word of God will speak to you through the Holy Spirit, even as God spoke to Ahijah. Remember the scripture in **2Ti 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."** And in **Col 1:1-17; 1 ¶ "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 ¶ We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, 5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; 6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: 7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; 8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. 9 ¶ For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; 12 ¶ Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."** This text says, we are to be filled with the Word of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by which we are kept from falling into the devil's traps of disguise, by the Holy Spirit power of Christ, the Word, in us.

7 ¶ "Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel, 8 And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and yet thou hast not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes; 9 But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back: 10 Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone. 11 Him that dieth of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat: for the LORD hath spoken it. 12 Arise thou therefore, get thee to thine own house: and when thy feet enter into the city, the child shall die. 13 And all Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him: for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam."

We are given a scriptural example of idolaters requesting prayers in **Eze 14:1-5; 1 ¶ "Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me. 2 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them? 4 Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that**

cometh according to the multitude of his idols; 5 That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols." Thus, Jeroboam gets his answer.

Remember when we began studying about King David, that we said that all kings after him would be measured by the standard that King David set. We have already saw that Solomon, David's son, failed to meet the standard, and now we see that God is telling Jeroboam that he has failed to meet the standard of King David. This also tells us the Jeroboam is a bad king over the ten tribes, known as the northern kingdom.

God tells Jeroboam that he has provoked God to anger by turning to idolatry and leading Israel into idolatry. God tells Jeroboam that you have cast me behind your back instead of directing your gaze to my face and following "**only**" my commandments. After giving Jeroboam, the reason for God's anger against him, God now pronounces the judicial judgments that are coming to him, his house, and the ten tribes of Israel. God tells Jeroboam that God will completely destroy the house of Jeroboam and how it shall come to pass, which is seen in **1Ki 15:29; 28 "Even in the third year of Asa king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead. 29 And it came to pass, when he reigned, that he smote all the house of Jeroboam; he left not to Jeroboam any that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according unto the saying of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite: 30 Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger."**

God tells Jeroboam's wife that she is to go home and deliver this message to Jeroboam, and as a sign that it is of God, when her feet enter the city, the child shall die. God tells her that Israel shall mourn for the child, and he is the only one of the family of Jeroboam who shall go to the grave, because God has found something good in the child toward God. What a miracle of divine grace, to have a child born in this idolatrous situation, and to be found of favor with God. This is a picture of the divine grace of God extended to his saved people.

Notice it says the family of Jeroboam. Jeroboam himself shall be buried, but none of his seed except this child. What an admonishment, which should frighten us to the point, that we would fall before God, and beg that God not let us turn our backs upon him.

Last week at our bible study, there were a lot of questions why all this is happening, to which I feel an inadequate explanation was given. After thinking on it this past week, I remembered: there are things in the bible that we cannot, nor will not understand, because they are the big picture of God's plan, and he has not told us about them, nor revealed them to us.

Why did Jeroboam do what he did? God made man with a free will, and man left to his own devices will always choose to sin, and he will never choose to follow the commandments of God. Remember, this all started with the sins of Solomon, and Israel who Solomon caused to sin, and God's judgments against him and them. Solomon turned to idolatry because he chose to do what God told him not to do. Israel had a choice: they could follow Solomon, or they could do what God had taught them to do and follow his commandments. Israel chose to follow Solomon in his sin. What does this tell us about Solomon, Jeroboam, and most of Israel. They exercised their free will and chose to put God away out of their sight. Now, all this is happening because God is punishing, with judicial judgments, all those that have chosen sin over God.

Why did God split Isreal into two kingdoms? Because God made a promise to King David that one of his lineage would reign in Israel, and God preserved to King David's lineage the tribe of Judah. The dividing of the nation Israel into two kingdoms was a judicial judgment against King Solomon and Israel. We shall see that Judah didn't do much better than the rest of Israel, however, they will be given some good kings along the way.

It all goes back to sin, which started in the Garden of Eden when Adam directly disobeyed God and fell in sin. All of mankind, from that time forward, fell in sin with Adam, and continue in sin, except they be filled with the Spirit of God. This principle is true in the Old and New Testaments.

Why was King David the measuring stick by which all kings were measured after his life was over? Because God testified of David that he was a man after God's own heart, and David was filled with the spirit of God, and he chose to do that which was right in the sight of God.

Man, without God, will always choose sin over God. Fast forward to today in this age of Salvation by the Grace of God. Remember the song we sang in closing last week, The Church's Desolation. The lyrics of that song tells us of an apostate church, just as we can look at Israel and see an apostate church. Wherefore, we can see that today mankind, and religion, is doing no better than Israel is at this time.

The same thing is true in the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel. They have all chosen to do their will and not God's, except for the Levites, and the priest of the lineage of Aaron, the remnant God has preserved to continue serving God in Jerusalem in the temple. Since God cannot abide the sight of sin, God sends judicial judgments in the lives of those that choose their will over God's.

Why does God record all these bad things that people did in the bible? To teach us what not to do, and what will happen to us if we follow our will over the will of God. Remember, man without God is depraved, and cannot do good. Remember that God always judges sin. God will use godless nations to judge Israel, and then God will judge those godless nations for their own sins.

Now let's get back to our study and try to focus on what we are supposed to be doing as children of God, which is setting the example of testifying of the goodness and greatness of God. Remembering that if we do what is right in the sight of God, we are sowing good seeds, and we will reap good fruits. This is what we saw in Israel when King David was reigning, except when he also fell in sin. The difference, between King David and all these bad kings, is that King David repented of his sins and he did not continue in them. Lastly, the devil will plant plenty of weeds without our help, so let us try to sow the seeds that yield the fruits of the Spirit of God.

We left off last week with the sentence of judicial judgment against Jeroboam and the death of his child. We begin this week with God's continued response to the wife of Jeroboam, to give to her husband.

1Ki 14:14 Moreover the LORD shall raise him up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam that day: but what? even now. 15 For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger. 16 And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin."

God further proclaims that He will raise up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam. God says that He will smite Israel and remove them from the land of promise, because they turned to idolatry, following Jeroboam instead of God, which has provoked God to be angry with them. God also puts the blame for all these judicial judgments upon Jeroboam who made Israel, the northern kingdom or the ten tribes, to sin.

This should serve as a rebuke to every child of God. How? As a reminder that if we do not walk worthy of our life in Christ, as seen in *Eph 4:1-6; 1 ¶ "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 ¶ With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."* If we fail in this walk, as a child of God, we will lead others astray, as Jeroboam did, and we shall be charged with their sins, as seen in *Eze 33:1-6; 1 ¶ "Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: 3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; 4 Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. 6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand."* What a fearful fate to suffer if we fail to do our Christian duty and faithfully follow God.

We are given a New Testament warning of walking blindly in *Mt 15:12-14; 12 "Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? 13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. 14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."* And in *Lu 6:39 "And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"*

17 "And Jeroboam's wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah: and when she came to the threshold of the door, the child died; 18 And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by the hand of his servant Ahijah the prophet."

When Jeroboam's wife reached home the child died, and was buried, as God had said. Israel mourned for the child, as God has predicted. This death of the child was the verification that the word of God against Jeroboam, and the northern kingdom would be fulfilled. We are reminded, what God says He will do will surely come to pass.

Again, we point out this miracle of divine grace, to have a child born in this idolatrous situation, and to be found of favor with God. This is a picture of salvation by the grace of God, extended to his saved people, in this idolatrous world, in which we live today.

19 "And the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he warred, and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. 20 And the days which Jeroboam reigned were two and twenty years: and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his stead."

We shall meet Jeroboam again in the book of Chronicles. He reigned twenty-two years and died. Nadab, his son, reigned in his stead. We are given the facts of the death of Jeroboam and all that befell him in 2 Chronicles chapter 13.

The evidence, we have in scripture, points us to the fact that Jeroboam was not a child of God. This is a great warning to us today. We should examine our lives daily, to see if we are following God or walking in the will of our own flesh. We certainly do not want to have the condemnation of the blood of others upon our conscience.

21 ¶ "And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. 22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. 23 For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. 24 And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel."

I would point out that only the tribe of Judah is mentioned, not the tribe of Benjamin, which had Jerusalem in it, and where the ark of God, the temple of God, and where the name of God resided. We are not told if Benjamin was involved in the idolatry of not, but we have been told that the priests from the ten tribes were driven out from Jeroboam, because they would not engage in idolatry, and they gathered to Jerusalem and the temple of God.

Rehoboam reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonitess. Again, we are seeing Israelites marrying those whom God forbid them to marry, and following them in their sins of idolatry, as God had declared would happen.

Judah does evil in the sight of God and provokes God to jealous anger in their idolatry. They further provoked God by engaging in sodomy and all other types of abominations before God. They engaged in the same things of those who God had driven out of the land of promise to give to the nation Israel. We look at our own nation, and others, and see these same things happening. Wherefore, we can expect God's judicial judgments against our nations also. If not before, it will come when King Jesus returns.

This is a reminder to us of the scripture ***Lu 9:62 "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*** We are reminded to carefully walk in the way that God has prescribed for us, purging our flesh from the way of sinfulness, as seen in ***2Ti 2:21; 20 "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 22 ¶ Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."***

25 "And it came to pass 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 even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. 27 And king Rehoboam made in their stead brasen shields, and committed them unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house. 28 And it was so, when the king went into the house of the LORD,

that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber. 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 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. And Abijam his son reigned in his stead."

Because of Judah's sins, in the fifth year of the reign of Rehoboam, God sent Shishak, king of Egypt, who made war upon Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and the house of the king. The shields of gold that Solomon made were taken by Shishak and replaced with shields of brass by Rehoboam. Matthew Henry mentions in his commentary that sin turns gold to brass. Brass, as we know it, is a mixture of at least two different components. We see this happening in the tribe of Judah, which reminds us of what we are told in **1Co 13:1 ¶ "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."** If we are talking of how we serve God, but are walking in sin, we have turned gold into brass, because we cannot serve two masters.

There was a continual war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their lives. Jeroboam dies and is buried, and his son Abijam reigns in his stead.

In summary, we are told in this chapter that every tribe of Israel, except the tribe of Levi which was in Jerusalem and the temple of God, have turned to idolatry. We believe the Levites were not involved in all this idolatry because of what we are told in **2Ch 11:4 "For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the LORD."** If they would not participate in the idolatry of the northern kingdom under Jeroboam, we can rest assured they would not participate in the idolatry of the southern kingdom under Rehoboam. The Levites were the priests of God, not of idolatry.

We are told again that Rehoboam's mother was Naamah an Ammonitess, and that Abijam his son reigned in his place. What can be drawn from this to be of use to us in this life as children of God. Rehoboam was an apostate, and his wife was an idolater and a heathen, one of the nations of whom God had commanded the Israelites not to marry. The lesson is: righteousness cannot be propagated because it is a gift from God. However, unrighteousness can be propagated, because it is fruit of the fallen nature of mankind and inherit to all humanity. Righteousness is a gift from God to those who have been chosen by God and regenerated.

This is why God had given Israel all the laws of not marrying people of other nations. God also told them if they married Ammonites or Moabites, they would be unclean until the tenth generation. God told Israel if they married outside of the nation of Israel, that the outsiders would turn them to idolatry, which we just saw happened to King Solomon in **1Ki 11:1-4; 1 ¶ "But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; 2 Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. 4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father."**

This is why God has commanded us in the New Testament Church to not marry outsiders, as seen in **2Co 6:14-18; 14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."**

The lesson for us is, though we be surrounded by idolatry in this world, and all manner of sin, we are to be like the Levites and stand firm for the name of our God, the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and the name of the Holy Spirit. If we can only keep the first commandment of God in full view, "**thou shalt have no other gods before me**" we will truly be blessed in the Lord. May God help us all to be faithful servants and raise high the banner of our God, we ask in the name of Jesus, our King and Saviour, Amen!

14 Moreover the LORD shall raise him up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam that day: but what? even now. **15** For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger. **16** And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin."

God further proclaims that He will raise up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam. God says that He will smite Israel and remove them from the land of promise, because they turned to idolatry, which has provoked God to be angry with them. God also puts the blame for all these judicial judgments upon Jeroboam who made Israel, the northern kingdom or the ten tribes, to sin.

This should serve as a rebuke to every child of God. How? As a reminder that if we do not walk worthy of our life in Christ, as seen in *Eph 4:1-6; 1 ¶ "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 ¶ With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."* If we fail in this walk, as a child of God, we will lead others astray, as Jeroboam did, and we shall be charged with their sins, as seen in *Eze 33:1-6; 1 ¶ "Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: 3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; 4 Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. 6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand."* What a fearful fate to suffer if we fail to do our Christian duty and faithfully follow God.

We are given a New Testament warning of walking blindly in *Mt 15:12-14; 12 "Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? 13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. 14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."* And in *Lu 6:39 "And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"*

17 "And Jeroboam's wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah: and when she came to the threshold of the door, the child died; **18** And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by the hand of his servant Ahijah the prophet."

When Jeroboam's wife reached home the child died, and was buried, as God had said. Israel mourned for the child, as God has predicted. This death was the verification that the word of God against Jeroboam and the northern kingdom would be fulfilled. We are reminded, what God says He will do will surely come to pass.

Again, we point out this miracle of divine grace, to have a child born in this idolatrous situation, and to be found of favor with God. This is a picture of salvation by the grace of God, extended to his saved people, in this idolatrous world, and age, in which we live today.

19 "And the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he warred, and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. **20** And the days which Jeroboam reigned were two and twenty years: and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his stead."

We shall meet Jeroboam again in the book of Chronicles. He reigned twenty-two years and died. Nadab, his son, reigned in his stead. We are given the facts of the death of Jeroboam and all that befell him in 2 Chronicles chapter 13.

21 ¶ "And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. **22** And Judah did

evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. 23 For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. 24 And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel."

I would point out that only the tribe of Judah is mentioned, not the tribe of Benjamin, which had Jerusalem in it, and where the ark of God, the temple of God, and where the name of God resided. We are not told if Benjamin was involved in the idolatry of not, but we have been told that the priests from the ten tribes were driven out from Jeroboam and gathered to Jerusalem and the temple of God.

Rehoboam reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonitess. Again, we are seeing Israelites marrying those whom God forbid them to marry.

Judah does evil in the sight of God and provokes God to jealous anger in their idolatry. They further provoked God by engaging in sodomy and all other types of abominations before God. They engaged in the same things of those who God had driven out of the land of promise to give to the nation Israel. We look at our own nation, and others, and see these same things happening. Wherefore, we can expect God's judicial judgments against our nations also. If not before, it will come when King Jesus returns.

This is a reminder to us of the scripture ***Lu 9:62 "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.***" We are reminded to carefully walk in the way that God has prescribed for us.

25 "And it came to pass 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 even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. 27 And king Rehoboam made in their stead brasen shields, and committed them unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house. 28 And it was so, when the king went into the house of the LORD, that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber. 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 And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. And Abijam his son reigned in his stead."

In the fifth year of the reign of Rehoboam, Shishak, king of Egypt, made war upon Jerusalem and took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and the house of the king. The shields of gold that Solomon made were taken by Shishak and replaced with shields of brass by Rehoboam. Matthew Henry mentions in his commentary that sin turns gold to brass. Brass, as we know it, is a mixture of at least two different components. We see this happening in the tribe of Judah, which reminds us of what we are told in ***1Co 13:1 ¶ "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."*** If we are talking of how we serve God, but are walking in sin, we have turned gold into brass, because we cannot serve two masters.

There was a continual war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their lives. Jeroboam dies and is buried, and his son Abijam reigns in his stead.

In summary, we are told in this chapter that every tribe of Israel, except the tribe of Benjamin in which was Jerusalem and the temple of God, have turned to idolatry. We believe the Levites were not involved in all this idolatry because of what we are told in ***2Ch 11:4 "For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the LORD:***" If they would not participate in the idolatry of the northern kingdom under Jeroboam, we can rest assured they would not participate in the idolatry of the southern kingdom under Rehoboam. The Levites were the priests of God, not of idolatry.

We are told again that Rehoboam's mother was Naamah an Ammonitess, and that Abijam his son reigned in his place. What can be drawn from this to be of use to us in this life as children of God. Rehoboam was an apostate, and his wife was an idolater and a heathen, one of the nations of whom God had commanded the Israelites not to marry. The lesson is: righteousness cannot be propagated because it is a gift from God.

However, unrighteousness can be propagated, because it is fruit of the fallen nature of mankind and inherit to all humanity. Righteousness is a gift from God to those who have been chosen by God and regenerated.

This is why God had given Israel all the laws of not marrying people of other nations. God also told them if they married Ammonites or Moabites, they would be unclean until the tenth generation. God told Israel if they married outside of the nation of Israel, that the outsiders would turn them to idolatry, which we just saw happened to King Solomon. It is why God has commanded us in the New Testament Church to not marry outsiders, as seen in ***2Co 6:14-18; 14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."***

The lesson for us is though we be surrounded by idolatry, in this world filled with idolatry and all manner of sin, we are to be like the Levites and stand firm for the name of our God, the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and the name of the Holy Spirit. If we can only keep the first commandment of God in full view, "***thou shalt have no other gods before me***" we will truly be blessed in the Lord. May God help us all to be faithful servants and raise high the banner of our God, we ask in the name of Jesus, our King and Saviour, Amen!