AHIJAH’S PROPHESY AGAINST JEROBOAM

REHOBOAM KING OF JUDAH

1 KINGS 14:1-31
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Rehoboam King of Judah

Text:

1 Kings 14:1-31,

1. At that time Abijah son of Jeroboam became ill,
2. and Jeroboam said to his wife, “Go, disguise yourself, so you won’t be recognized as the wife of Jeroboam. Then go to Shiloh. Ahijah the prophet is there—the one who told me I would be king over this people.
3. Take ten loaves of bread with you, some cakes and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the boy.”
4. So Jeroboam’s wife did what he said and went to Ahijah’s house in Shiloh. Now Ahijah could not see; his sight was gone because of his age.
5. But the LORD had told Ahijah, “Jeroboam’s wife is coming to ask you about her son, for he is ill, and you are to give her such and such an answer. When she arrives, she will pretend to be someone else.”
6. So when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps at the door, he said, “Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why this pretense? I have been sent to you with bad news.
7. Go, tell Jeroboam that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I raised you up from among the people and appointed you ruler over my people Israel.
8. I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commands and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes.
9. You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have aroused my anger and turned your back on me.
10. “Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel—slave or free. I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone.
11. Dogs will eat those belonging to Jeroboam who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country. The LORD has spoken!”
12. “As for you, go back home. When you set foot in your city, the boy will die.
13. All Israel will mourn for him and bury him. He is the only one belonging to Jeroboam who will be buried, because he is the only one in the house of Jeroboam in whom the LORD, the God of Israel, has found anything good.
14. “The LORD will raise up for himself a king over Israel who will cut off the family of Jeroboam. Even now this is beginning to happen.
15. And the LORD will strike Israel, so that it will be like a reed swaying in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land that he gave to their ancestors and scatter them beyond the Euphrates River, because they aroused the LORD’s anger by making Asherah poles.
16. And he will give Israel up because of the sins Jeroboam has committed and has caused Israel to commit.”
17. Then Jeroboam’s wife got up and left and went to Tirzah. As soon as she stepped over the threshold of the house, the boy died.
18. They buried him, and all Israel mourned for him, as the LORD had said through his servant the prophet Ahijah.
19. The other events of Jeroboam’s reign, his wars and how he ruled, are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel.
20. He reigned for twenty-two years and then rested with his ancestors. And Nadab his son succeeded him as king.
21. Rehoboam son of Solomon was king in Judah. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel in which to put his Name. His mother’s name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite.
22. Judah did evil in the eyes of the LORD. By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than those who were before them had done.
23. They also set up for themselves high places, sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree.
24. There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land; the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.
25. In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem.
26. He carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace. He took everything, including all the gold shields Solomon had made.
27. So King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and assigned these to the commanders of the guard on duty at the entrance to the royal palace.
28. Whenever the king went to the LORD’s temple, the guards bore the shields, and afterward they returned them to the guardroom.
29. As for the other events of Rehoboam’s reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?
30. There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam.
31. And Rehoboam rested with his ancestors and was buried with them in the City of David. His mother’s name was
Naamah; she was an Ammonite. And Abijah his son succeeded him as king.  (NIV)

Introduction:

I. Upon the division of the kingdom, the books of Kings tell the story of both the north and the south, first one segment and then another, while relating the interactions between the two and how they related to other countries as well. (Long)

II. Long wrote, “The accomplishments of each king are sandwiched between introductory and concluding formulas.” Between rather standard beginnings and endings, each kings’ deeds, good and bad, are documented. Exceptions to this rule, of course, are found from time to time in the historical record.

III. After the division of the nation north and south, “the prophets of God moved up front and center stage in biblical emphasis.” (Coffman)

A. This chapter, 1 Kings 14, focuses on the word of Jehovah through the prophet Ahijah. (Coffman)

B. Israel’s united kingdom had failed.

1. Israel’s hope was in honoring the word of God spoken through the holy prophets. (Coffman)

Commentary:

Ahijah’s Prophecy Against Jeroboam

1 Kings 14:1, At that time Abijah son of Jeroboam became ill, (NIV)
I. At that time Abijah (Jehovah is his father) son of Jeroboam became gravely ill, . . .

A. Smith places these events “At that time,” toward the end of Jeroboam’s reign.

1. Abijah, Smith stated, was the crown prince.

2. Upon his death, another son, Nadab, became the crown prince.

B. This was merely a prelude to the miseries which would befall the house of Jeroboam. (Clarke)

1. It was also a warning to Jeroboam to repent, a warning he ignored. (Clarke)

2. The illness and death of Abijah are the result of Jeroboam’s sins.

a. Deuteronomy 28:22, 58-61, The LORD will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, with blight and mildew, which will plague you until you perish. If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, which are written in this book, and do not revere this glorious and awesome name—the LORD your God—the LORD will send fearful plagues on you and your descendants, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses. He will bring on you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you. The LORD will also bring on you every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in
this Book of the Law, until you are destroyed. (NIV)

b. Exodus 23:25, Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, (NIV)

1 Kings 14:2, and Jeroboam said to his wife, “Go, disguise yourself, so you won’t be recognized as the wife of Jeroboam. Then go to Shiloh. Ahijah the prophet is there—the one who told me I would be king over this people. (NIV)

I. and Jeroboam said to his wife, . . .

A. Jeroboam was to learn the hard way that God’s blessings cannot be obtained by subterfuge. (Coffman)

1. Coffman mentioned other biblical characters who learned this same lesson; including . . .

a. Adam and Eve tried to hide in Eden.

b. Ahab tried to hide in battle.

c. Jonah tried to hide from God by going to Tarshish.

II. “Go, disguise yourself, so you won’t be recognized as the wife of Jeroboam.

A. Things had greatly changed since the day Ahijah, speaking for God, told Jeroboam he would be king of Israel’s ten (10) tribes.
1. The change in the Ahijah-Jeroboam relationship was caused by Jeroboam’s apostasy.

2. No longer being on friendly terms with Ahijah, Jeroboam told his wife to disguise herself so her identity would not affect Ahijah’s pronouncement. (Long)

3. Jeroboam had continued confidence in Ahijah.

   a. It was not Ahijah who had changed!

4. Jeroboam must have thought, in view of his apostasy, that he and his wife, if their identities were known, would not have received a favorable response from Ahijah.

III. then go to Shiloh, Ahijah the prophet is there—the one who told me I would be king over this people.

   A. The Bible speaks of others who also inquired of a prophet or deity in regard to sickness and its outcome.

1. 2 Kings 5:1-19, Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman’s wife. She said to her mistress, “If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.” Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. “By all means, go,” the
king of Aram replied. “I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: “With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy.” As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, “Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!” When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: “Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.” So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha’s house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, “Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.” But Naaman went away angry and said, “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn’t I wash in them and be cleansed?” So he turned and went off in a rage. Naaman’s servants went to him and said, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, ‘Wash and be cleansed’!” So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to
the man of God. He stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant.” The prophet answered, “As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.” And even though Naaman urged him, he refused. “If you will not,” said Naaman, “please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the LORD. But may the LORD forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I have to bow there also—when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD forgive your servant for this.” “Go in peace,” Elisha said. After Naaman had traveled some distance, (NIV)

2. 2 Kings 8:7-15, Elisha went to Damascus, and Ben-Hadad king of Aram was ill. When the king was told, “The man of God has come all the way up here,” he said to Hazael, “Take a gift with you and go to meet the man of God. Consult the LORD through him; ask him, ‘Will I recover from this illness?’” Hazael went to meet Elisha, taking with him as a gift forty camel-loads of all the finest wares of Damascus. He went in and stood before him, and said, “Your son Ben-Hadad king of Aram has sent me to ask, ‘Will I recover from this illness?’” Elisha answered, “Go and say to him, ‘You will certainly recover.’ Nevertheless, the LORD has revealed to me that he will in fact die.” He stared at him with a fixed gaze until Hazael was embarrassed. Then the man of God began to weep. “Why is my lord
weeping?” asked Hazael. “Because I know the harm you will do to the Israelites,” he answered. “You will set fire to their fortified places, kill their young men with the sword, dash their little children to the ground, and rip open their pregnant women.” Hazael said, “How could your servant, a mere dog, accomplish such a feat?” “The LORD has shown me that you will become king of Aram,” answered Elisha. Then Hazael left Elisha and returned to his master. When Ben-Hadad asked, “What did Elisha say to you?” Hazael replied, “He told me that you would certainly recover.” But the next day he took a thick cloth, soaked it in water and spread it over the king’s face, so that he died. Then Hazael succeeded him as king. (NIV)

3. 2 Kings 20:1-11, In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, “This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover.” Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, “Remember, LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him: “Go back and tell Hezekiah, the ruler of my people, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD. I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.’”
Then Isaiah said, “Prepare a poultice of figs.” They did so and applied it to the boil, and he recovered. Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, “What will be the sign that the LORD will heal me and that I will go up to the temple of the LORD on the third day from now?” Isaiah answered, “This is the LORD’s sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: Shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or shall it go back ten steps?” “It is a simple matter for the shadow to go forward ten steps,” said Hezekiah. “Rather, have it go back ten steps.” Then the prophet Isaiah called on the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz. (NIV)

B. Shiloh was a town rich in Israelite history, located in the territory of Ephraim.

1. Joshua 16:5, This was the territory of Ephraim, according to its clans: The boundary of their inheritance went from Ataroth Addar in the east to Upper Beth Horon (NIV)

2. Joshua 18:1-10, The whole assembly of the Israelites gathered at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The country was brought under their control, but there were still seven Israelite tribes who had not yet received their inheritance. So Joshua said to the Israelites: “How long will you wait before you begin to take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has given you? Appoint three men from each tribe. I will send them out to make a survey of the land and to write a description of it, according to the inheritance of each. Then they will return to me. You are to divide
the land into seven parts. Judah is to remain in its territory on the south and the tribes of Joseph in their territory on the north. After you have written descriptions of the seven parts of the land, bring them here to me and I will cast lots for you in the presence of the LORD our God. The Levites, however, do not get a portion among you, because the priestly service of the LORD is their inheritance. And Gad, Reuben and the half-tribe of Manasseh have already received their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan. Moses the servant of the LORD gave it to them.” As the men started on their way to map out the land, Joshua instructed them, “Go and make a survey of the land and write a description of it. Then return to me, and I will cast lots for you here at Shiloh in the presence of the LORD.” So the men left and went through the land. They wrote its description on a scroll, town by town, in seven parts, and returned to Joshua in the camp at Shiloh. Joshua then cast lots for them in Shiloh in the presence of the LORD, and there he distributed the land to the Israelites according to their tribal divisions. (NIV)

3. Judges 18:31, They continued to use the idol Micah had made, all the time the house of God was in Shiloh. (NIV)

4. Judges 21:19, But look, there is the annual festival of the LORD in Shiloh, which lies north of Bethel, east of the road that goes from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.” (NIV)

5. 1 Samuel 4:3, When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, “Why did the
LORD bring defeat on us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the LORD’s covenant from Shiloh, so that he may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies.” (NIV)

6. Jeremiah 41:5, eighty men who had shaved off their beards, torn their clothes and cut themselves came from Shechem, Shiloh and Samaria, bringing grain offerings and incense with them to the house of the LORD. (NIV)

1 Kings 14:3, Take ten loaves of bread with you, some cakes and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the boy.” (NIV)

I. Take ten (10) loaves of bread with you, some cakes (cracknels) and a jar (coarse leather bottle) of honey, and go to him.

A. These gifts were not of significant value. (Smith)

1. The inexpensive gifts were a further attempt at deception as they were not the gifts a king would have normally presented to the prophet. (Smith)

2. These gifts were more what would be expected of a farmer.

B. It was customary to give presents to all great persons and no one consulted a prophet without bringing a gift. (Clarke)

C. The word “cakes” comes from an original word meaning “pricked” or “spotted”. (The Pulpit Commentary)

II. He will tell you what will happen to the boy.”
A. Would you like to be able to know what your future health will be?

B. Smith concluded, “In godless superstition he (Jeroboam) apparently believed that whatever the prophet said would come to pass even if he were tricked into saying it.”

C. The Pulpit Commentary notes that Jeroboam did not ask his wife to beg for the life of their child and that this is because of the Eastern belief in fatalism; that is, what will be will be.

1. Jeroboam evidently just wanted to know what would happen.

2. Also, in view of his sins, he may have thought begging the prophet for a favorable pronouncement was useless.

1 Kings 14:4, So Jeroboam’s wife did what he said and went to Ahijah’s house in Shiloh. Now Ahijah could not see; his sight was gone because of his age. (NIV)

I. So Jeroboam’s wife did what he said and went to Ahijah’s house in Shiloh.

A. Shiloh was located some thirty (30) difficult miles from Tirzah. (Smith)

II. Now Ahijah could not see; his sight was gone because of his age.

A. 1 Samuel 4:15, who was ninety-eight years old and whose eyes had failed so that he could not see. (NIV)
B. Genesis 27:1, When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could no longer see, he called for Esau his older son and said to him, “My son.” “Here I am,” he answered. (NIV)

1 Kings 14:5, But the LORD had told Ahijah, “Jeroboam’s wife is coming to ask you about her son, for he is ill, and you are to give her such and such an answer. When she arrives, she will pretend to be someone else.” (NIV)

I. But, the Lord had told Ahijah, . . .

A. Jeroboam’s wife’s disguise was useless.

1. God directly informed Ahijah of the facts of the situation, of Jeroboam’s wife’s identity.

II. “Jeroboam’s wife is coming to ask you about her son, for he is ill, and you are to give her such and such an answer.

A. The Lord communicated information and direction to Ahijah.

B. Faithful Ahijah did exactly as he was directed!

C. This is exactly the way we are to respond to God’s word as presented to us in the Holy Bible.

III. When she arrives, she will pretend to be someone else.”

A. How could Jeroboam and his wife expect the right prediction about their son if the predictor did not know to and about whom he was speaking?
B. Other kings disguised themselves to no avail, for example, ...

1. Saul

   a. 1 Samuel 28:1-15, In those days the Philistines gathered their forces to fight against Israel. Achish said to David, “You must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army.” David said, “Then you will see for yourself what your servant can do.” Achish replied, “Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life.” Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land. The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all Israel and set up camp at Gilboa. When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets. Saul then said to his attendants, “Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her.” “There is one in Endor,” they said. So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. “Consult a spirit for me,” he said, “and bring up for me the one I name.” But the woman said to him, “Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?” Saul swore to her by the LORD,
“As surely as the LORD lives, you will not be punished for this.” Then the woman asked, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” “Bring up Samuel,” he said. When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, “Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!” The king said to her, “Don’t be afraid. What do you see?” The woman said, “I see a ghostly figure coming up out of the earth.” “What does he look like?” he asked. “An old man wearing a robe is coming up,” she said. Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” “I am in great distress,” Saul said. “The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has departed from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do.” Samuel said, “Why do you consult me, now that the LORD has departed from you and become your enemy? The LORD has done what he predicted through me. The LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbors—to David. Because you did not obey the LORD or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the LORD has done this to you today. The LORD will deliver both Israel and you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines.” Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, filled with fear because of
Samuel’s words. His strength was gone, for he had eaten nothing all that day and all that night. When the woman came to Saul and saw that he was greatly shaken, she said, “Look, your servant has obeyed you. I took my life in my hands and did what you told me to do. Now please listen to your servant and let me give you some food so you may eat and have the strength to go on your way.” He refused and said, “I will not eat.” But his men joined the woman in urging him, and he listened to them. He got up from the ground and sat on the couch. The woman had a fattened calf at the house, which she butchered at once. She took some flour, kneaded it and baked bread without yeast. Then she set it before Saul and his men, and they ate. That same night they got up and left. (NIV)

2. Ahab

a. 1 Kings 22:29-40, So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead. The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “I will enter the battle in disguise, but you wear your royal robes.” So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle. Now the king of Aram had ordered his thirty-two chariot commanders, “Do not fight with anyone, small or great, except the king of Israel.” When the chariot commanders saw Jehoshaphat, they thought, “Surely this is the king of Israel.” So they turned to attack him, but when Jehoshaphat cried out, the chariot commanders saw that he was not the king of
Israel and stopped pursuing him. But someone drew his bow at random and hit the king of Israel between the sections of his armor. The king told his chariot driver, “Wheel around and get me out of the fighting. I’ve been wounded.” All day long the battle raged, and the king was propped up in his chariot facing the Arameans. The blood from his wound ran onto the floor of the chariot, and that evening he died. As the sun was setting, a cry spread through the army: “Every man to his town. Every man to his land!” So the king died and was brought to Samaria, and they buried him there. They washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria (where the prostitutes bathed), and the dogs licked up his blood, as the word of the LORD had declared. As for the other events of Ahab’s reign, including all he did, the palace he built and adorned with ivory, and the cities he fortified, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel? Ahab rested with his ancestors. And Ahaziah his son succeeded him as king. (NIV)

C. No one can escape the judgment of God, Saul, Jeroboam, Ahab, you, I! (See Long.)

1. If it were known that Jeroboam, the chief priest of the golden calves, bulls had consulted a prophet of Jehovah when he was really in need, he would have been discredited as a “true” priest. (See Clarke.)

1 Kings 14:6, So when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps at the door, he said, “Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why this pretense? I have been sent to you with bad news. (NIV)
I. So when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps at the door, he said, . . .

   A. Time had taken Ahijah’s vision, but he retained his hearing.

   1. Jeroboam’s wife’s disguise did not work. (Coffman)

II. “Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why this pretense?

   A. In this story Jeroboam’s wife is not quoted as saying even a single word although she surely must have said something.

   B. What do you hope to accomplish by this charade, masquerade?

      1. Nothing good was accomplished, but it clearly revealed once more Jeroboam’s basic dishonesty.

III. I have been sent to you with bad news.

   A. It would appear that Jeroboam’s wife had been sent to Ahijah, but, in fact, God had sent Ahijah to Jeroboam’s wife. (See Long.)

   B. The bad news was that Jeroboam’s son would die upon his wife’s return home.

   1 Kings 14:7, Go, tell Jeroboam that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I raised you up from among the people and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. (NIV)

I. Go, tell Jeroboam that this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says, . . .
A. Before announcing the outcome of Jeroboam’s son’s illness, Ahijah made the case for what had been decided about Abijah.

II. ‘I raised you up from among the people and made you a leader over my people Israel.

A. Ahijah quotes God and speaks in the first person.

B. What God is quoted as saying here is a reflection of what was said previously by Ahijah to Jeroboam with modifications in view of Jeroboam’s apostasy.

1. 1 Kings 11:29-39, About that time Jeroboam was going out of Jerusalem, and Ahijah the prophet of Shiloh met him on the way, wearing a new cloak. The two of them were alone out in the country, and Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces. Then he said to Jeroboam, “Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon’s hand and give you ten tribes. But for the sake of my servant David and the city of Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, he will have one tribe. I will do this because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Molek the god of the Ammonites, and have not walked in obedience to me, nor done what is right in my eyes, nor kept my decrees and laws as David, Solomon’s father, did. “‘But I will not take the whole kingdom out of Solomon’s hand; I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of David my servant, whom I chose and who obeyed my
commands and decrees. I will take the kingdom from his son’s hands and give you ten tribes. I will give one tribe to his son so that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put my Name. However, as for you, I will take you, and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel. If you do whatever I command you and walk in obedience to me and do what is right in my eyes by obeying my decrees and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you. I will build you a dynasty as enduring as the one I built for David and will give Israel to you. I will humble David’s descendants because of this, but not forever.”” (NIV)

C. God had blessed Jeroboam, but Jeroboam had turned his back on the Lord!

1. Now Jeroboam wanted God to do his son a favor.

1 Kings 14:8, I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commands and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes. (NIV)

I. I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but . . .

A. Conditions of faithfulness were attached to this gift, which conditions Jeroboam failed to keep. (See Clarke.)

II. you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commands and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes.
A. 1 Kings 11:33-39, I will do this because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Molek the god of the Ammonites, and have not walked in obedience to me, nor done what is right in my eyes, nor kept my decrees and laws as David, Solomon’s father, did. “But I will not take the whole kingdom out of Solomon’s hand; I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of David my servant, whom I chose and who obeyed my commands and decrees. I will take the kingdom from his son’s hands and give you ten tribes. I will give one tribe to his son so that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put my Name. However, as for you, I will take you, and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel. If you do whatever I command you and walk in obedience to me and do what is right in my eyes by obeying my decrees and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you. I will build you a dynasty as enduring as the one I built for David and will give Israel to you. I will humble David’s descendants because of this, but not forever.”” (NIV)

b. 1 Kings 15:5, For David had done what was right in the eyes of the LORD and had not failed to keep any of the LORD’s commands all the days of his life—except in the case of Uriah the Hittite. (NIV)

1 Kings 14:9, You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made
of metal; you have aroused my anger and turned your back on me. (NIV)

I. You have done more evil than all who lived before you.

A. Jeroboam held the record for doing evil!

1. In view of the sins of others such as Solomon, setting a new world’s record took some doing.

   a. 1 Kings 11:4-7, As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done. On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. (NIV)

II. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; . .

A. The golden calves, bulls erected by Jeroboam were not representatives of God, but “other gods.” (See Coffman.)

   1. Exodus 32:4, 8, He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.” They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves
an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’ (NIV)

2. Exodus 34:17, “Do not make any idols. (NIV)

3. Deuteronomy 9:12, Then the LORD told me, “Go down from here at once, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have become corrupt. They have turned away quickly from what I commanded them and have made an idol for themselves.” (NIV)

4. Judges 17:4, So after he returned the silver to his mother, she took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to a silversmith, who used them to make the idol. And it was put in Micah’s house. (NIV)

III. You have provoked me to anger and thrust me behind your back.

A. Jeroboam had turned his back on God which made God very angry with him.

1. 1 Kings 14:15, And the LORD will strike Israel, so that it will be like a reed swaying in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land that he gave to their ancestors and scatter them beyond the Euphrates River, because they aroused the LORD’s anger by making Asherah poles. (NIV)

2. 2 Kings 17:11, 17, At every high place they burned incense, as the nations whom the LORD had driven out before them had done. They did wicked
things that aroused the LORD’s anger. They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practiced divination and sought omens and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger. (NIV)

3. Ezekiel 23:35, “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Since you have forgotten me and turned your back on me, you must bear the consequences of your lewdness and prostitution.” (NIV)

4. Psalm 1:6, For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. (NIV)

5. Nehemiah 9:26, “But they were disobedient and rebelled against you; they turned their backs on your law. They killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you; they committed awful blasphemies. (NIV)

1 Kings 14:10, “Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel—slave or free. I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone. (NIV)

I. Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam.

A. Jeroboam would reap what he had sown!

   1. Judgment would be swift and thorough! (Smith)
2. 1 Kings 15:29, As soon as he began to reign, he killed Jeroboam’s whole family. He did not leave Jeroboam anyone that breathed, but destroyed them all, according to the word of the LORD given through his servant Ahijah the Shilonite. (NIV)

II. I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel—slave or free.

A. Not one male would be left to support Jeroboam.

III. I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone.

A. Dung (feces, excrement, “buffalo chips”) was sometimes dried and burned for fuel.

1. The point is that Jeroboam’s filthy house will be totally destroyed, ultimately disgraced.

2. This reference indicates the total loathing, contempt with which the members of the royal house would be treated on that day of judgment. (Smith and The Pulpit Commentary)

1 Kings 14:11, Dogs will eat those belonging to Jeroboam who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country. The LORD has spoken!’ (NIV)

I. Dogs will eat those belonging to Jeroboam who die in the city, and the birds of the air will feed on those who die in the country.

A. Dogs, city street scavengers, will eat those of Jeroboam’s house who died in the city while birds (scavengers, vultures, buzzards) would devour those who died in the country.
1. Those belonging to Jeroboam would not be permitted an honorable burial.

B. Long wrote that this describes a period of political unrest.

1. Jeroboam and his family would not be given honorable funerals nor burials in the tombs of their fathers.

2. Smith noted that, “To the Eastern mind, to be left unburied was the ultimate disgrace. . . .this is exactly what would take place. . .”

   a. To be left unburied and to have one’s body eaten by dogs and wild beasts was the ultimate disgrace, horror to a Jew.

   b. Psalm 79:2, They have left the dead bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the sky, the flesh of your own people for the animals of the wild. (NIV)

   c. Jeremiah 7:33, Then the carcasses of this people will become food for the birds and the wild animals, and there will be no one to frighten them away. (NIV)

   d. Ezekiel 29:5, I will leave you in the desert, you and all the fish of your streams. You will fall on the open field and not be gathered or picked up. I will give you as food to the beasts of the earth and the birds of the sky. (NIV)
C. Bad news was not only awaiting Abijah, but the entire house of Jeroboam as well. (See Coffman.)

II. The Lord has spoken!

A. There can be no appeal. God’s pronouncement allows no appeal.

1 Kings 14:12, “As for you, go back home. When you set foot in your city, the boy will die.  (NIV)

I. As for you, go back home. When you set foot in your city, the boy will die.

A. Perhaps Jeroboam’s wife should not go home.

B. This prediction, immediately fulfilled, was a sign that the long-term prophecy against Jeroboam would occur as spoken. (See Smith.)

1 Kings 14:13, All Israel will mourn for him and bury him. He is the only one belonging to Jeroboam who will be buried, because he is the only one in the house of Jeroboam in whom the Lord, the God of Israel, has found anything good.  (NIV)

I. All Israel will mourn for him and bury him.

A. There was good in Abijah.

1. He was, as an exception to the rule, permitted to be mourned and buried with honor. (See Clarke.)

II. He is the only one belonging to Jeroboam who will be buried, because he is the only one in the house of Jeroboam in whom the Lord, the God of Israel, has found anything good.
A. This child of Jeroboam was the only exception to the rule just given.

1. He will be mourned and buried in honor because he had good within him.

   a. 1 Chronicles 28:9, “And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. (NIV)

   b. Psalm 7:9, Bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure—you, the righteous God who probes minds and hearts. (NIV)

B. Long observed that in the death of Jeroboam’s son is seen both a sign of God’s judgment on Jeroboam and his grace on the son.

1. Grace was shown Abijah because some degree of piety was seen in him. (The Pulpit Commentary)

   a. He may well have dissented from his father’s evil ways. (The Pulpit Commentary)

1 Kings 14:14, “The LORD will raise up for himself a king over Israel who will cut off the family of Jeroboam. Even now this is beginning to happen. (NIV)
I. The Lord will raise up for himself a king over Israel who will cut off the family of Jeroboam.

   A. “Ahijah (the prophet) speaks of Baasha son of Ahijah of the tribe of Issachar who will assassinate Nadab and eliminate Jeroboam’s whole family,” Long wrote.

1. 1 Kings 15:27-30, Baasha son of Ahijah from the tribe of Issachar plotted against him, and he struck him down at Gibbethon, a Philistine town, while Nadab and all Israel were besieging it. Baasha killed Nadab in the third year of Asa king of Judah and succeeded him as king. As soon as he began to reign, he killed Jeroboam’s whole family. He did not leave Jeroboam anyone that breathed, but destroyed them all, according to the word of the LORD given through his servant Ahijah the Shilonite. This happened because of the sins Jeroboam had committed and had caused Israel to commit, and because he aroused the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel. (NIV)

II. This is the day! What? Yes, even now.

   A. This is the day God announced the end of the house of Jeroboam which would in time in fact be destroyed.

1 Kings 14:15, And the LORD will strike Israel, so that it will be like a reed swaying in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land that he gave to their ancestors and scatter them beyond the Euphrates River, because they aroused the LORD’s anger by making Asherah poles. (NIV)

I. And the Lord will strike (smite) Israel, so that it will be like a reed swaying in the water.
a. Israel would be totally unable to resist God’s judgment, as weak as a reed in a hurricane or a rapidly flowing torrential river.

1. 1 Kings 15:28-30, Baasha killed Nadab in the third year of Asa king of Judah and succeeded him as king. As soon as he began to reign, he killed Jeroboam’s whole family. He did not leave Jeroboam anyone that breathed, but destroyed them all, according to the word of the LORD given through his servant Ahijah the Shilonite. This happened because of the sins Jeroboam had committed and had caused Israel to commit, and because he aroused the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel. (NIV)

2. Luke 7:24, And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind? (KJV)

3. Deuteronomy 29:28, In furious anger and in great wrath the LORD uprooted them from their land and thrust them into another land, as it is now.” (NIV)

II. He will uproot Israel from this good land that he gave to their forefathers and scatter them beyond the river, . . .

A. Deuteronomy 29:25-28, And the answer will be: “It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, the covenant he made with them when he brought them out of Egypt. They went off and worshiped other gods and bowed down to them, gods they did not know, gods he had not given
them. Therefore the LORD’s anger burned against this land, so that he brought on it all the curses written in this book. In furious anger and in great wrath the LORD uprooted them from their land and thrust them into another land, as it is now.” (NIV)

B. Deuteronomy 28:64-68, Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods—gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your ancestors have known. Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life. In the morning you will say, “If only it were evening!” and in the evening, “If only it were morning!”—because of the terror that will fill your hearts and the sights that your eyes will see. The LORD will send you back in ships to Egypt on a journey I said you should never make again. There you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you. (NIV)

C. Hosea 8:5-6, Samaria, throw out your calf-idol! My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of purity? They are from Israel! This calf—a metalworker has made it; it is not God. It will be broken in pieces, that calf of Samaria. (NIV)

D. Hosea 9:3, They will not remain in the LORD’s land; Ephraim will return to Egypt and eat unclean food in Assyria. (NIV)
E. 1 Kings 8:46-50, “When they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you become angry with them and give them over to their enemies, who take them captive to their own lands, far away or near; and if they have a change of heart in the land where they are held captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors and say, ‘We have sinned, we have done wrong, we have acted wickedly’; and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies who took them captive, and pray to you toward the land you gave their ancestors, toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name; then from heaven, your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause. And forgive your people, who have sinned against you; forgive all the offenses they have committed against you, and cause their captors to show them mercy; (NIV)

F. 2 Kings 17:1-23, In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, but not like the kings of Israel who preceded him. Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up to attack Hoshea, who had been Shalmaneser’s vassal and had paid him tribute. But the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea was a traitor, for he had sent envoys to So king of Egypt, and he no longer paid tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore Shalmaneser seized him and put him in prison. The king of Assyria invaded the entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habor River and in the towns of the Medes. All this took place because the Israelites had
sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt from under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshiped other gods and followed the practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before them, as well as the practices that the kings of Israel had introduced. The Israelites secretly did things against the LORD their God that were not right. From watchtower to fortified city they built themselves high places in all their towns. They set up sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. At every high place they burned incense, as the nations whom the LORD had driven out before them had done. They did wicked things that aroused the LORD’s anger. They worshiped idols, though the LORD had said, “You shall not do this.” The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: “Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets.” But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their ancestors, who did not trust in the LORD their God. They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their ancestors and the statutes he had warned them to keep. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless. They imitated the nations around them although the LORD had ordered them, “Do not do as they do.” They forsook all the commands of the LORD their God and made for themselves two idols cast in the shape of calves, and an Asherah pole. They bowed down to all the starry hosts, and they worshiped Baal. They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practiced divination and sought omens and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger. So the LORD was very angry with Israel and
removed them from his presence. Only the tribe of Judah was left, and even Judah did not keep the commands of the LORD their God. They followed the practices Israel had introduced. Therefore the LORD rejected all the people of Israel; he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them from his presence. When he tore Israel away from the house of David, they made Jeroboam son of Nebat their king. Jeroboam enticed Israel away from following the LORD and caused them to commit a great sin. The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them until the LORD removed them from his presence, as he had warned through all his servants the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there. (NIV)

G. Centuries later Israel was taken captive by Assyria and became known as the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel, just as God foretold through Moses earlier and Ahijah the prophet on this occasion. (See Coffman.)

III. because they provoked the Lord to anger by making Asherah poles.

A. “Asherah (the mother goddess) was a consort/wife of El and Baal who at times were apparently worshiped in Israel as a consort of Yahweh,” Long wrote.

B. Long quoted Taylor as saying, “The ‘Asherah pole’ was a living tree that was pruned, representing the fertility goddess as the tree of life.”
C. Jeroboam, in many ways, corrupted the worship of God by erecting metal, golden idols to Jehovah, changing the places of worship and the appointed feasts.

1 Kings 14:16, And he will give Israel up because of the sins Jeroboam has committed and has caused Israel to commit.”
(NIV)

I. And he will give Israel up because of the sins Jeroboam has committed and has caused Israel to commit.”

A. God decreed he would “give Israel up” because of their sins.

1. Romans 1:24, 26, 28, Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;
(KJV)

2. Coffman equated “give up” with judicial hardening, blending, darkening of the mind and the sending of a strong delusion.

B. Of course, what God foretold happened!

1. Isaiah 6:9-10, He said, “Go and tell this people: ‘‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’ Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close
their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.” (NIV)

2. Matthew 13:13-15, Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. (KJV)

3. Acts 28:26-28, Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it. (KJV)

1 Kings 14:17, Then Jeroboam’s wife got up and left and went to Tirzah. As soon as she stepped over the threshold of the house, the boy died. (NIV)
I. Then Jeroboam’s wife got up and left and went to Tirzah.

   A. Tirzah, located six (6) miles north of Shechem was Jeroboam’s present residence, having moved from Penuel. (Smith)

   1. Penuel was east of the Jordan River while Tirzah was west of the Jordan, a few miles northeast of Shechem.

   2. Jeroboam had also previously resided at Shechem.

      a. 1 Kings 12:25, Then Jeroboam fortified Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. From there he went out and built up Peniel. (NIV)

      b. Shechem was the capital of Ephraim, centrally located with a bountiful water supply and well connected to other places by a good road system. However, hills were on either side making it difficult to defend when attacked. This may have been the main reason Jeroboam moved the capital to Tirzah. (See The Pulpit Commentary.)

II. As soon as she stepped over the threshold of the house, the boy died.

   A. This was fulfilled just as the prophet had said giving a clear sign that everything else the prophet had said would also come to pass.

   1 Kings 14:18, They buried him, and all Israel mourned for him, as the LORD had said through his servant the prophet Ahijah. (NIV)
I. They buried him, and all Israel mourned for him, as the Lord had said through his servant the prophet Ahijah.

A. The same prophet who foretold Jeroboam’s rise to power has now foretold his fall from power evidence of which is now shown in the death of his son.

1 Kings 14:19, The other events of Jeroboam’s reign, his wars and how he ruled, are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel. (NIV)

I. The other events of Jeroboam’s reign, his wars and how he ruled, are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel.

A. Long said the book of the annals (the daily occurrences) of the kings of Israel probably were court records at the author’s disposal.

1. In other words, the writer was saying he was accurate in what was being said and was verifiable by public records. (See Long.)

B. The most important thing is whether or not a king is faithful to God.

1. Other matters were secondary to this prime matter of importance.

C. 2 Chronicles 13:1-20 also gives details of Jeroboam’s reign.

1. 2 Chronicles 13:1-20, In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam, Abijah became king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem three years. His
mother’s name was Maakah, a daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. Abijah went into battle with an army of four hundred thousand able fighting men, and Jeroboam drew up a battle line against him with eight hundred thousand able troops. Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim, in the hill country of Ephraim, and said, “Jeroboam and all Israel, listen to me! Don’t you know that the LORD, the God of Israel, has given the kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of salt? Yet Jeroboam son of Nebat, an official of Solomon son of David, rebelled against his master. 7 Some worthless scoundrels gathered around him and opposed Rehoboam son of Solomon when he was young and indecisive and not strong enough to resist them. “And now you plan to resist the kingdom of the LORD, which is in the hands of David’s descendants. You are indeed a vast army and have with you the golden calves that Jeroboam made to be your gods. But didn’t you drive out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and make priests of your own as the peoples of other lands do? Whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams may become a priest of what are not gods. “As for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him. The priests who serve the LORD are sons of Aaron, and the Levites assist them. Every morning and evening they present burnt offerings and fragrant incense to the LORD. They set out the bread on the ceremonially clean table and light the lamps on the gold lampstand every evening. We are observing the requirements of the LORD our God. But you have forsaken him. God is with us; he is our leader. His
priests with their trumpets will sound the battle cry against you. People of Israel, do not fight against the LORD, the God of your ancestors, for you will not succeed.” Now Jeroboam had sent troops around to the rear, so that while he was in front of Judah the ambush was behind them. Judah turned and saw that they were being attacked at both front and rear. Then they cried out to the LORD. The priests blew their trumpets and the men of Judah raised the battle cry. At the sound of their battle cry, God routed Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. The Israelites fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hands. Abijah and his troops inflicted heavy losses on them, so that there were five hundred thousand casualties among Israel’s able men. The Israelites were subdued on that occasion, and the people of Judah were victorious because they relied on the LORD, the God of their ancestors. Abijah pursued Jeroboam and took from him the towns of Bethel, Jeshanah and Ephron, with their surrounding villages. Jeroboam did not regain power during the time of Abijah. And the LORD struck him down and he died. (NIV)

1 Kings 14:20, He reigned for twenty-two years and then rested with his ancestors. And Nadab his son succeeded him as king. (NIV)

I. He reigned for twenty-two years and then rested with his fathers.

A. The phrase, “rested with his fathers,” indicates Jeroboam died peacefully and that God’s retribution on the house of Jeroboam was delayed.
B. The twenty-two (22) years are dated 930-909 B.C.

1. Rehoboam and Jeroboam began reigning at the same time, but especially wicked Jeroboam lived four (4) years after the death of Rehoboam.

2. Length of life does not always correlate with righteousness.
   
a. Remember the infants two (2) years old and under killed by Herod following the visit of the wise men?

C. “...the exploits of this long reign find no mention in Scripture; the historian dwells exclusively on the sin, the consequences of which were of so much greater moment,” Bahr as quoted in The Pulpit Commentary stated.

1. This clearly tells us what God thinks of our accomplishments and how important our sins are in the sight of the Lord.

II. And Nadab his son succeeded him as king.

A. Jeroboam’s son succeeded him as king.

Rehoboam King of Judah

1 Kings 14:21, Rehoboam son of Solomon was king in Judah. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel in which to put his Name. His mother’s name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite. (NIV)
I. Rehoboam son of Solomon was king in Judah.

   A. Rehoboam was faithful to God for the first three (3) years of his reign, after which the southern kingdom went headlong into apostasy. (Smith)

      1. Overall, “Rehoboam was an evil king just like his father.” (Coffman)

      2. Israel and Judah both rapidly descended into the same idolatry practiced by the Canaanites whom God had driven out before them. (See Coffman.)

         a. In some cases, they actually became worse than the sinners before them.

         b. Ezekiel 16:47-52, You not only followed their ways and copied their detestable practices, but in all your ways you soon became more depraved than they. As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, your sister Sodom and her daughters never did what you and your daughters have done. ““Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen. Samaria did not commit half the sins you did. You have done more detestable things than they, and have made your sisters seem righteous by all these things you have done. Bear your disgrace, for you have furnished some justification for your
sisters. Because your sins were more vile than theirs, they appear more righteous than you. So then, be ashamed and bear your disgrace, for you have made your sisters appear righteous. (NIV)

II. He was forty-one (41) years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen (17) years in Jerusalem, . . .

A. Rehoboam died at age fifty-nine (59).

B. Rehoboam’s reign is reported at great length in 2 Chronicles 11 and 12.

III. the city, the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel in which to put his Name.

A. 1 Kings 8:16, 44, 48, ‘Since the day I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city in any tribe of Israel to have a temple built so that my Name might be there, but I have chosen David to rule my people Israel.’ “When your people go to war against their enemies, wherever you send them, and when they pray to the LORD toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name, and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies who took them captive, and pray to you toward the land you gave their ancestors, toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name; (NIV)

B. 1 Kings 11:13, 32, 36, Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen.” But for the sake of my servant
David and the city of Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, he will have one tribe. I will give one tribe to his son so that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put my Name. (NIV)

C. Psalm 78:67-68, Then he rejected the tents of Joseph, he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim; but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loved. (NIV)

D. 2 Chronicles 6:6, But now I have chosen Jerusalem for my Name to be there, and I have chosen David to rule my people Israel.’ (NIV)

IV. His mother’s name was Naamah (Naanan); she was an Ammonite.

A. Amazing! Surprising! The king of Judah is half Ammonite.

1. The queen mother is mentioned because of her importance and influence in the kingdom.

B. Further information about Rehoboam’s family, activities and reign is given elsewhere.

1. 2 Chronicles 11:18-23, Rehoboam married Mahalath, who was the daughter of David’s son Jeremoth and of Abihail, the daughter of Jesse’s son Eliab. She bore him sons: Jeush, Shemariah and Zaham. Then he married Maakah daughter of Absalom, who bore him Abijah, Attai, Ziza and Shelomith. Rehoboam loved Maakah daughter of Absalom more than any of his other wives and concubines. In all, he had eighteen wives and sixty
concubines, twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters. Rehoboam appointed Abijah son of Maakah as crown prince among his brothers, in order to make him king. He acted wisely, dispersing some of his sons throughout the districts of Judah and Benjamin, and to all the fortified cities. He gave them abundant provisions and took many wives for them. (NIV)

2. 2 Chronicles 11:5-17, Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem and built up towns for defense in Judah: Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa, Beth Zur, Soko, Adullam, Gath, Mareshah, Ziph, Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah, Zorah, Aijalon and Hebron. These were fortified cities in Judah and Benjamin. He strengthened their defenses and put commanders in them, with supplies of food, olive oil and wine. He put shields and spears in all the cities, and made them very strong. So Judah and Benjamin were his. The priests and Levites from all their districts throughout Israel sided with him. The Levites even abandoned their pasturclands and property and came to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them as priests of the LORD when he appointed his own priests for the high places and for the goat and calf idols he had made. Those from every tribe of Israel who set their hearts on seeking the LORD, the God of Israel, followed the Levites to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices to the LORD, the God of their ancestors. They strengthened the kingdom of Judah and supported Rehoboam son of Solomon three years, following the ways of David and Solomon during this time. (NIV)
C. Smith faults Naamah, Rehoboam’s Ammonite mother, in large measure for Judah’s apostasy.

1 Kings 14:22, Judah did evil in the eyes of the LORD. By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than those who were before them had done. (NIV)

I. Judah did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

A. Evil was not reserved to any one part of the land nor to any one segment of the population.

1. This was true then and it is true now!

2. No one is immune to sin.

3. When Rehoboam became secure (overly confident), he fell away from dependence on God.

   a. 2 Chronicles 12:1, After Rehoboam’s position as king was established and he had become strong, he and all Israel with him abandoned the law of the LORD. (NIV)

II. By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than their fathers had done.

   a. Under Rehoboam Judah angered the Lord more than their fathers had done which must have taken a lot of effort because their fathers’ sins were horrendous.

1 Kings 14:23, They also set up for themselves high places, sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. (NIV)
I. They also, as the Northern tribes were doing, set up for themselves high places, sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree.

A. Long wrote, “High places are precincts for sacrifice and worship; sacred stones usually (although not always) represent male deities, “Asherah poles” most likely were wooden symbols/images of a goddess, probably the mother goddess.”

B. Smith stated high places were for the worship of astral deities, pillars represented Baal and the poles were symbols of Asherah.

C. These idols were so widespread and numerous that it is said they were “on every hill and under every spreading tree.”

1. 2 Kings 16:4, He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops and under every spreading tree. (NIV)

2. 2 Kings 17:10, They set up sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. (NIV)

1 Kings 14:24, There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land; the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. (NIV)

I. There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land: . . .

A. Long wrote that “male shrine prostitutes” may have reference rather to a “priestly functionary associated with pagan religious practices.”
B. Smith wrote, “Most shocking of all, male cult prostitutes sprang up around the land. . . people whom the Lord had called to holiness had adopted all of the corrupt practices of the Canaanites which God had driven out before them.”

C. If sodomites is the correct reading, the male shrine prostitutes even included homosexuality as well as other acts of the greatest impurity. (See Clarke.)

D. This practice was strictly forbidden by the Law of Moses!

1. Deuteronomy 23:17-18, No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine prostitute. You must not bring the earnings of a female prostitute or of a male prostitute into the house of the LORD your God to pay any vow, because the LORD your God detests them both. (NIV)

II. The people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites.

A. The people of Judah were not the least behind the heathen nations displaced by the Israelites nor the wicked people of the Northern Kingdom.

1. Deuteronomy 7:25-26, The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not covet the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the LORD your God. Do not bring a detestable thing into your house or you, like it, will be set apart for destruction. Regard it as vile and utterly detest it, for it is set apart for destruction. (NIV)
2. Deuteronomy 12:29-31, The LORD your God will cut off before you the nations you are about to invade and dispossess. But when you have driven them out and settled in their land, and after they have been destroyed before you, be careful not to be ensnared by inquiring about their gods, saying, “How do these nations serve their gods? We will do the same.” You must not worship the LORD your God in their way, because in worshiping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things the LORD hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods. (NIV)

3. Deuteronomy 18:9-13, When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. 13 You must be blameless before the LORD your God. (NIV)

4. 2 Kings 16:3, He followed the ways of the kings of Israel and even sacrificed his son in the fire, engaging in the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. (NIV)

5. 2 Kings 21:2, 11, He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the
Israelites. “Manasseh king of Judah has committed these detestable sins. He has done more evil than the Amorites who preceded him and has led Judah into sin with his idols. (NIV)

6. When Israel and Judah became like the nations around them, they also were dispossessed from the land.

1 Kings 14:25, In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem. (NIV)

I. In the fifth (5th) year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem.

A. While Judah suffered greatly at the hands of Shishak, Israel was also attacked. (See Long.)

1. Egyptian hieroglyphics seem to attest to this fact. (Long)

2. Even though Shishak had given Jeroboam refuge from Solomon, he now took from both the North and South what he wanted. (Long)

a. 1 Kings 11:26-40, Also, Jeroboam son of Nebat rebelled against the king. He was one of Solomon’s officials, an Ephraimite from Zeredah, and his mother was a widow named Zeruah. Here is the account of how he rebelled against the king: Solomon had built the terraces and had filled in the gap in the wall of the city of David his father. Now Jeroboam was a man of standing, and when Solomon saw how well the young man did his work, he put him in
charge of the whole labor force of the tribes of Joseph. About that time Jeroboam was going out of Jerusalem, and Ahijah the prophet of Shiloh met him on the way, wearing a new cloak. The two of them were alone out in the country, and Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he was wearing and tore it into twelve pieces. Then he said to Jeroboam, “Take ten pieces for yourself, for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘See, I am going to tear the kingdom out of Solomon’s hand and give you ten tribes. But for the sake of my servant David and the city of Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, he will have one tribe. I will do this because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Molek the god of the Ammonites, and have not walked in obedience to me, nor done what is right in my eyes, nor kept my decrees and laws as David, Solomon’s father, did. “‘But I will not take the whole kingdom out of Solomon’s hand; I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of David my servant, whom I chose and who obeyed my commands and decrees. I will take the kingdom from his son’s hands and give you ten tribes. I will give one tribe to his son so that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put my Name. However, as for you, I will take you, and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel. If you do whatever I command you and walk in obedience to me and do what is right in my
eyes by obeying my decrees and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you. I will build you a dynasty as enduring as the one I built for David and will give Israel to you. I will humble David’s descendants because of this, but not forever.’” Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam fled to Egypt, to Shishak the king, and stayed there until Solomon’s death. (NIV)

3. Shishak’s invasion is dated to 925 B.C.

B. Punishment for Judah’s apostasy came quickly in the form of an Egyptian invasion (926 B.C.).

1. With the nation divided north and south, they were weak and an easy prey for the strong Shishak, King of Egypt.

2. Rehoboam, in view of the Egyptian invasion, repented, but God still placed Judah “under tributary obligation to Shishak.”

a. 2 Chronicles 12:5-8, Then the prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam and to the leaders of Judah who had assembled in Jerusalem for fear of Shishak, and he said to them, “This is what the LORD says, ‘You have abandoned me; therefore, I now abandon you to Shishak.’” The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, “The LORD is just.” When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, this word of the LORD came to Shemaiah: “Since they have humbled themselves, I will not destroy them but will
soon give them deliverance. My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem through Shishak. They will, however, become subject to him, so that they may learn the difference between serving me and serving the kings of other lands.” (NIV)

C. Hamilton wrote, “. . .one might conclude that this was a punitive campaign intended to demonstrate support for Jeroboam.”

1. 1 Kings 11:40, Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam fled to Egypt, to Shishak the king, and stayed there until Solomon’s death. (NIV)

2. However, it must not be forgotten that Shishak made military incursions into the Northern Kingdom as well.

1 Kings 14:26, He carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace. He took everything, including all the gold shields Solomon had made. (NIV)

I. He carried off the treasures of the temple of the Lord and the treasures of the royal palace.

A. It didn’t take Rehoboam long to lose much of what Solomon had labored to secure, much of it taken from God’s temple.

B. 2 Chronicles 12:5-8, Then the prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam and to the leaders of Judah who had assembled in Jerusalem for fear of Shishak, and he said to them, “This is what the LORD says, ‘You have abandoned me; therefore, I now abandon you to
Shishak.” The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, “The LORD is just.” When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, this word of the LORD came to Shemaiah: “Since they have humbled themselves, I will not destroy them but will soon give them deliverance. My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem through Shishak. They will, however, become subject to him, so that they may learn the difference between serving me and serving the kings of other lands.” (NIV)

C. This was a monumental loss to Judah, Jerusalem and, most especially, the temple.

II. He took everything, including all the gold shields Solomon had made.

A. 1 Kings 10:16-17, King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each shield. He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold, with three minas of gold in each shield. The king put them in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon. (NIV)

B. 2 Chronicles 12:2, 5, Because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem in the fifth year of King Rehoboam. Then the prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam and to the leaders of Judah who had assembled in Jerusalem for fear of Shishak, and he said to them, “This is what the LORD says, ‘You have abandoned me; therefore, I now abandon you to Shishak.”’ (NIV)

C. Shishak had made vassals of Rehoboam and Jeroboam.
D. The taking of treasures occurred repeatedly until finally the temple itself was destroyed by the Babylonians.

1 Kings 14:27, So King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and assigned these to the commanders of the guard on duty at the entrance to the royal palace. (NIV)

I. So King Rehoboam made bronze (brass or copper) shields to replace them and assigned these to the commanders of the guard on duty at the entrance to the royal palace.

A. Gold shields were replaced by inferior bronze shields, a big step backward.

1. Solomon’s gold shields were on display, but Rehoboam’s bronze shields, when not in use, were quickly placed in storage. (Smith)

B. Judah was in a state of rapid decline!

1. 1 Kings 9:28, They sailed to Ophir and brought back 420 talents of gold, which they delivered to King Solomon. (NIV)

2. 1 Kings 10:22, The king had a fleet of trading ships at sea along with the ships of Hiram. Once every three years it returned, carrying gold, silver and ivory, and apes and baboons. (NIV)

C. The guards performed various functions including ceremonial and military/police duties.

1 Kings 14:28, Whenever the king went to the LORD’s temple, the guards bore the shields, and afterward they returned them to the guardroom. (NIV)
I. Whenever the king went to the Lord’s temple, the guards bore the shields, and afterward they returned them to the guardroom.

   A. Clarke sets the number of guards and shields at three hundred (300) each.

   B. In addition to all the idolatry, Rehoboam continued the temple worship with great pomp and ceremony, The Pulpit Commentary states.

1 Kings 14:29, As for the other events of Rehoboam’s reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? (NIV)

I. As for the other events of Rehoboam’s reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?

   A. At one point, Rehoboam did repent.

      1. 2 Chronicles 12:12, Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the LORD’s anger turned from him, and he was not totally destroyed. Indeed, there was some good in Judah. (NIV)

1 Kings 14:30, There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam. (NIV)

I. There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam.

   A. The North and South were continuing rivals.

      1. Each would have liked to annex the other.
2. **2 Chronicles 12:15**, As for the events of Rehoboam’s reign, from beginning to end, are they not written in the records of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer that deal with genealogies? There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam. (NIV)

B. “Border clashes must have occurred regularly. No massive invasions, however, are reported.” (Smith)

1 Kings 14:31, And Rehoboam rested with his ancestors and was buried with them in the City of David. His mother’s name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite. And Abijah his son succeeded him as king. (NIV)

I. And Rehoboam rested with his fathers (in the royal tomb) and was buried with them in the City of David (Jerusalem).

A. **1 Kings 11:36**, I will give one tribe to his son so that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put my Name. (NIV)

B. **2 Samuel 7:12-16**, When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.” (NIV)
II. His mother’s name was Naamah (Naanan); she was an Ammonite.

A. This is a repetition of factual information previously given and shows how evil and sinister her influence was during the reign of Rehoboam. (See The Pulpit Commentary.)

1. The influence of Solomon’s foreign wives lived on.

a. 1 Kings 11:1-8, King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh’s daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, “You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.” Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done. On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods. (NIV)
2. Clarke wrote, Rehoboam “was born of a heathen mother and begotten of an apostate father. From such an impure fountain could sweet water possibly spring?”

III. And Abijah (Abijam, Abem, Abihu, Abiah and Abijahu) his son succeeded him as king.

A. “Abijah was the wicked son of an apostate father and a heathenish mother,” Clarke wrote.

1. 2 Chronicles 12:16, Rehoboam rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. And Abijah his son succeeded him as king. (NIV)

2. 2 Chronicles 13:1, In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam, Abijah became king of Judah, (NIV)

3. 2 Chronicles 13:21, But Abijah grew in strength. He married fourteen wives and had twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters. (NIV)

4. How much good can be expected from him.

5. Matthew 7:17-19, Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. (KJV)

6. Luke 6:43-44, For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit.
For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. (KJV)

7. Notice, however, that each tree is known by its own fruit!

Conclusion:

I. Both Jeroboam and Rehoboam were given wondrous opportunities, but they squandered God’s blessings by sinful idolatry, wastefulness and terribly poor judgment to the harm of themselves and others.

II. In sharp contrast with Jeroboam and Rehoboam stands God’s faithful prophet, Ahijah!

III. The choice is ours:

   A. Are we going to walk in the way of Jeroboam and Rehoboam which leads to utter destruction here and hereafter, or . . .

   B. Are we going to walk in the way of Ahijah who was rich in honor and loyal devotion to God which leads to eternal blessings from our Lord?

   C. Clearly the choice with its inevitable, attendant results is ours to make.
Questions

on

1 Kings 14:1-31

(Quesions based on NIV text.)

1. As to perspective, how can 1st and 2nd Kings be summarized?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

2. How are the accomplishments of each king “sandwiched” between rather standard beginnings and endings? Of what do these beginnings and endings consist?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

3. How important, prominent are prophets and their work in 1st and 2nd Kings after the division of the kingdom?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
4. Who was Abijah? What problem did he face? Who were his father and mother?

5. What caused Abijah’s problem? What effect did this problem have on his father?

6. What did Jeroboam ask his wife to do? Why did he ask her to dress in this way?

7. _______________ and _______________ ____________, _______________ as well as _______________ and his _______________ all learned that people cannot deceive God, hide from God and that subterfuge is of no value when dealing with the Lord.

8. Who was Ahijah? Why and in what ways had the Ahijah-Jeroboam relationship changed?
9. Why would Jeroboam think Ahijah’s pronouncement would be more favorable if the prophet did not know he was making the request? If obtained under false pretenses, would the pronouncement still be valid? Why or why not?

10. Locate and speak to the historical importance of Shiloh in the biblical narrative. Where did Ahijah live?

11. Give other biblical examples of people who inquired of prophets or deity to determine the outcome of sicknesses.

12. How did the presents presented to Ahijah by Jeroboam’s wife further her planned deception?
13. Would you like to know what your future health will be?

14. Why didn’t Jeroboam’s wife beg for the life of her son? What impact did the Eastern belief in fatalism have in this matter?

15. Did Jeroboam’s wife do right in complying with her husband’s instructions to attempt to deceive Ahijah? Explain your answer.

16. Locate and give reasons for the importance of Tirzah in this lesson? How far was Tirzah from Shiloh?
17. How well could Ahijah see and hear? How did Ahijah’s vision and hearing affect the events at hand? ______________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

18. What did the Lord tell Ahijah? What did Ahijah tell Jeroboam’s wife? Was this Jeroboam’s wife Abijah’s mother? See verses 5-16. __________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

19. Give information about the following: (1) high places ______
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

(2) sacred stones________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
(3) Asherah poles ________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

20. How would utter contempt be shown to those belonging to Jeroboam? (See verse 11.) In the minds of the Israelites, how terrible was this considered? ________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

21. What ultimate punishment awaited the Northern Kingdom? (See verse 15.) When did this happen? ________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

22. List the sins of Jeroboam. ________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

23. When did Abijah expire? How old was he at the time of his death? Tell of his funeral. Why was he honored at the time of his death? ________________________________
24. Locate Shechem and Penuel. How did they figure in Israel’s history and Jeroboam’s reign?

25. ____________________ reigned for ______________-____
    ________________ years and then ________________
    with his ________________. ________________________ his
    ________________ ________________ ________________ him
    as ____________________.

26. ____________________, king of __________________,
    remained ________________ to God for the first __________
    years of his ________________, after which the ________________
    ________________ went headlong into ________________.

27. What caused Rehoboam to lapse into apostasy after the first three (3) years of his reign?

28. List the sins of Rehoboam.
29. Rehoboam was ________________ - ________________ years old when he became ________________, and he reigned ________________ years in ________________.

30. Who died first, Jeroboam or Rehoboam? By how much did one outlive the other? How did you arrive at your answers to these questions? ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________

31. Who was Naamah? What influence did she have on Rehoboam and the Southern Kingdom? ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________

32. What caused God to be angry with Rehoboam and Judah? How badly had they sinned against God? ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
                                                                                       ______________________________________
33. What behooved Judah to have male shrine prostitutes? In the eyes of the Lord, how grievous was this practice?
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________

34. The ___________________ of ____________________ were not the least behind the _________________ by the ____________________ nor the _________________ people of the ____________________. When __ ________________ became like the ________________________ around them, they also were ___________________ from the ________________________.

35. Who was Shishak? What did he do in regard to Judah? What action did he take in regard to the Northern Kingdom? _________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________

36. Contrast the situation nationally at the time Solomon died with conditions at the time Rehoboam died. ______________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
37. How do “bronze shields” indicate the rapid fall of Judah into spiritual, physical and financial ruin? Where did it all end? ______

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

38. In addition to all the ____________________, ____________________ continued the ____________________ ____________________ with great ____________________ and ____________________ ____________________. Was God pleased with Rehoboam’s temple worship? Explain your answer. ______________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

39. Discuss the relationship between the Northern and Southern Kingdoms during the reigns of Jeroboam and Rehoboam. ______

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

40. ____________________, Rehoboam’s ____________________, succeeded him as ____________________. ____________________ was the ____________________ ____________________ of an ____________________ ____________________ and a ____________________ ____________________.

Extra Credit Questions: (a) Both ____________________ and ____________________ were given wondrous ____________________,
but they __________________ by __________________, __________________ and __________________ to the __________________ of themselves and others. In sharp contrast with __________________ and __________________ stands __________________’s ____________________!

(b) Are you following the examples of Jeroboam and Rehoboam or the example of Ahijah? Explain your answer. __________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________