

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 KINGS 14

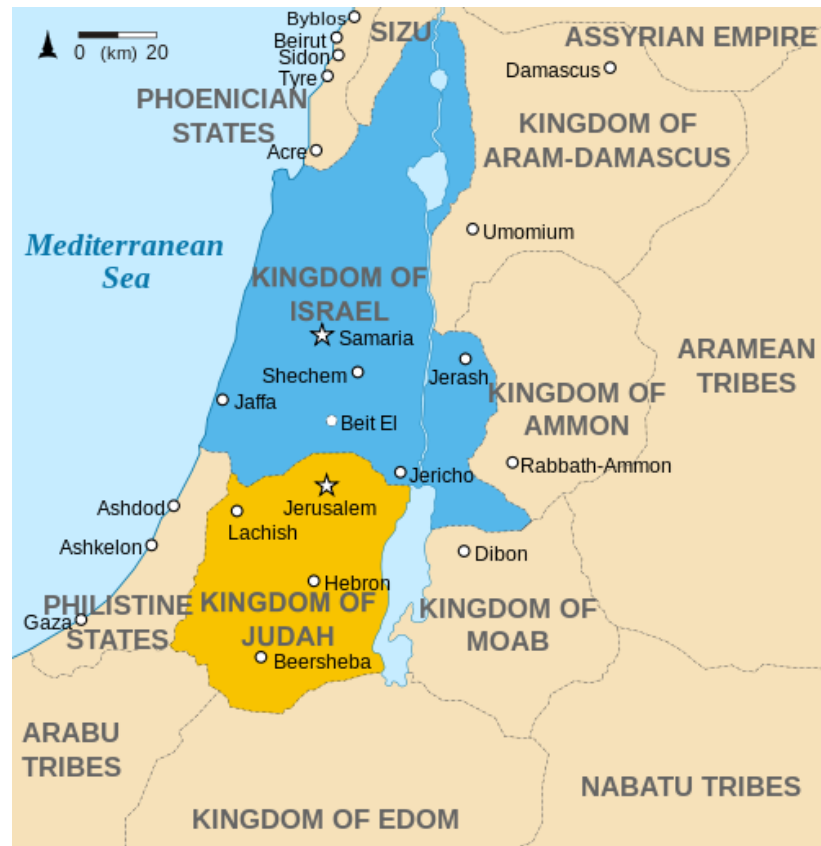
NORTHERN KINGDOM: ISRAEL, RULED BY JEROBOAM

SOUTHERN KINGDOM: JUDAH, RULED BY REHOBOAM (SOLOMON'S SON)

1 KINGS 14:1-5 - JEROBOAM'S SON GET SICK

JEROBOAM SENDS HIS WIFE, IN DISGUISE, TO THE PROPHET OF THE LORD IN JUDAH, AHIJAH. PERHAPS JEROBOAM BELIEVES AHIJAH WILL BE FAVORABLE TO HIM SINCE HE WAS THE ONE WHO HAD PROPHESIED JEROBOAM WOULD RECEIVE THE KINGDOM (1 KINGS 11). JEROBOAM DOESN'T CONSIDER THAT HIS CLEAR REJECTION OF THE LORD WILL COME INTO PLAY, YET CLEARLY HIS CONSCIENCE REVEALS HIS UNCERTAINTY. RATHER THAN GOING HIMSELF, HE SENDS HIS WIFE, AND HAS HER IN DISGUISE. THOUGH THE EYES OF AHIJAH HAD BECOME WEAK, JEROBOAM'S LIFE AND SCHEME OF HIS WIFE WERE NOT HIDDEN FROM THE EYES OF THE LORD.

1 KINGS 14:6-14 - AHIJAH DENOUNCES JEROBOAM'S KINGDOM



V. 6 - AHIJAH MIGHT BE NEAR BLIND BUT NOT BLIND TO WHO IS BEFORE HIM AND WHAT IS GOING ON.

V. 8 - NLT: "I RIPPED THE KINGDOM AWAY FROM THE FAMILY OF DAVID AND GAVE IT TO YOU. BUT YOU HAVE NOT BEEN LIKE MY SERVANT DAVID, WHO OBEYED MY COMMANDS AND FOLLOWED ME WITH ALL HIS HEART AND ALWAYS DID WHATEVER I WANTED."

1 KINGS 14:15-16 - DENOUNCEMENT OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL WILL EVENTUALLY BE UPROOTED AND "SCATTERED BEYOND THE EUPHRATES RIVER". (V. 15) BY THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE (2 KINGS 17:6).

V. 16 - JEROBOAM WAS THE KING OF ISRAEL. JEROBOAM WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT IDOLATRY INTO THE LAND. THIS LEADS TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO WORSHIP IDOLS TOO AND IDOLATRY FILLS THE LAND. AS A RESULT THE ENTIRE NATION WILL BE EXILED - BUT THE LORD WANTS THE KING AND THE NATION TO KNOW THAT THIS IS BECAUSE OF JEROBOAM.

"...IN CASE YOU WERE A BIT DULL WHEN YOU READ 1 KINGS 14, THE WRITER MAKES SURE YOU DON'T FORGET AHIJAH'S PROPHECY, FOR HE TAKES ITS TAILPIECE (IT'S FINAL POINTS), MAKES IT HIS REFRAIN, AND - LIKE A JINGLE ON A RADIO COMMERCIAL - DRUMS IT INTO YOUR HEAD AGAIN AND AGAIN. THERE IS NO ESCAPE: OVER AND OVER YOU HEAR 'THE SINS OF JEROBOAM, WHICH HE SINNED, AND WHICH HE CAUSED ISRAEL TO SIN' (14:16 + 1 KINGS 15:26, 30, 34; 16:19, 26; 22:52; 2 KINGS 10:31; 13:6, 11; 14:24; 15:18, 24, 28; 17:21-23). THE FIRST KING OF THE 10 TRIBES FINISHED THEM. THE BEGINNING WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END. JEROBOAM WENT

BULLISH AND DAMNED A WHOLE PEOPLE. THE CURSE OF AHIJAH'S WORD HANGS OVER THE NEXT 180 YEARS" (DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 1 KINGS", PAGE 163-164)

EACH OF US ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. WE CAN NEVER BLAME SOMEONE ELSE FOR OUR OWN CHOICES AND SINS. AT THE SAME TIME, THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PLACED IN POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP AND AUTHORITY OF ANY KIND - ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PEOPLE THEY ARE LEADING. THEIR RIGHTEOUS ACTS CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT FOR MORE RIGHTEOUS ACTS AND THEIR SINS ALLOW FOR AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE SIN IS PERMISSIBLE.

TAKE HEED HUSBANDS, FATHERS, PARENTS, PASTORS, EMPLOYERS, CHURCH LEADERS, PRESIDENTS, OR KINGS. YOUR PEOPLE ARE WATCHING YOU TO SEE WHAT IS THE RIGHT WAY TO WALK AND WHAT IS "ACCEPTABLE" AND "ALLOWABLE" IN YOUR "KINGDOM." AND WHILE GOD WILL HOLD EACH MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN CHOICES, HE WILL CERTAINLY HOLD THOSE LEADING OTHERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THIS GREAT TASK.

1 KINGS 14:17-20 - JEROBOAM (& HIS CHILD) DIE

V. 20 - JEROBOAM'S SON, NADAB BECOMES KING IN ISRAEL. NADAB WILL BECOME KING, BUT ONLY FOR 2 YEARS. THE WORD OF AHIJAH (V. 10-11) WILL COME TO PAST DURING NADAB'S REIGN (1 KINGS 15:25-30) WHEN HE AND ALL THE HOUSE OF JEROBOAM WILL BE KILLED.

1 KINGS 14:21-24 - REHOBOAM'S REIGN

LITERARY NOTE: THIS IS A COMMON TRAIT OF THE BOOK OF KINGS. THE NARRATOR WILL TRAVEL NORTH AND SOUTH, EVEN WITHIN ONE CHAPTER, TO UPDATE THE READER ON WHAT IS GOING ON IN EACH KINGDOM. THE WRITER WILL TYPICALLY GIVE AN OPENING "SUMMARY STATEMENT" (EX. VERSE 21-22) AND A CLOSING STATEMENT ON THE KING'S REIGN (EX: 19-20)

V. 21-22 - SUMMARY STATEMENT OF REHOBOAM'S REIGN.

THE NATION OF JUDAH, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DAVID'S GRANDSON IS NO DIFFERENT THAN THE NATIONS AROUND THEM. THEY ARE WORSHIPPING THE SAME GODS AND PRACTICING THE SAME EVILS. HOW SAD THESE WORDS ARE TO READ. DAVID REIGNED FOR 40 YEARS, SOLOMON FOR 40 YEARS AND NOW 41 YEAR OLD REHOBOAM IS KING (FOR 17 YEARS).

IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE WRITER OF 1 KINGS TELLS US THAT REHOBOAM WAS 41 YEARS OLD WHEN HE BECAME KING (V. 21). THIS MEANS THAT REHOBOAM WAS BORN IN THE FINAL YEAR OF DAVID'S REIGN AND LIFE. HE GREW UP WITH HIS FATHER SOLOMON AS KING, WATCHING HIM BUILD THE TEMPLE AND DEDICATING IT TO THE LORD. AND HE ALSO WITNESSED HIS FATHER'S DECLINE AND INTERMARRYING.

1 KINGS 14:25-28 - KING OF EGYPT

HOW QUICKLY THE BLESSINGS OF SOLOMON'S OBEDIENCE TO GOD ARE TAKEN AWAY FROM HIS SON. SOLOMON HAS PEACE DURING HIS REIGN AND BEGAN BUILDING THE TEMPLE IN HIS 4TH YEAR (1 KINGS 6:1). HIS SON IS PLUNDERED BY PHARAOH IN HIS 5TH YEAR.

THE NATION OF ISRAEL LEFT THEIR BONDAGE IN EGYPT WITH ALL OF THE TREASURES OF EGYPT BECAUSE GOD INCLINED THE HEARTS OF THE EGYPTIANS TO GIVE IT TO THE ISRAELITES.

EXODUS 3:21-22 - "I WILL GRANT THIS PEOPLE FAVOR IN THE SIGHT OF THE EGYPTIANS; AND IT SHALL BE THAT WHEN YOU GO, YOU WILL NOT GO EMPTY-HANDED. 22 "BUT EVERY WOMAN SHALL ASK OF HER NEIGHBOR AND THE WOMAN WHO LIVES IN HER HOUSE, ARTICLES OF SILVER AND ARTICLES OF GOLD, AND CLOTHING; AND YOU WILL PUT THEM ON YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS. THUS YOU WILL PLUNDER THE EGYPTIANS."

EXODUS 12:35-36 - NOW THE SONS OF ISRAEL HAD DONE ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF MOSES, FOR THEY HAD REQUESTED FROM THE EGYPTIANS ARTICLES OF SILVER AND ARTICLES OF GOLD, AND CLOTHING; 36 AND THE LORD HAD GIVEN THE PEOPLE FAVOR IN THE SIGHT OF THE EGYPTIANS, SO THAT THEY LET THEM HAVE THEIR REQUEST. THUS THEY PLUNDERED THE EGYPTIANS.

WHY WAS JUDAH NOT TOTALLY DESTROYED? WHY DO WE HAVE V. 28 TELL US THAT REHOBOAM "ENTERED THE HOUSE OF THE LORD"? THIS IS ONE INSTANCE WHERE THE ACCOUNT RECORDED IN CHRONICLES CAN GIVE US SOME MORE INSIGHT.

1 KINGS 14:29 - REFERENCE TO CHRONICLES' ACCOUNT

2 CHRONICLES 12:1-14 - PARALLEL RECORD OF SHISHAK'S SEIGE OF JUDAH

SOME COMMENTATORS SUGGEST THAT REHOBOAM PAID THE EGYPTIAN KING OFF WITH THE TREASURES FROM THE TEMPLE RATHER THAN SHISHAK'S MILITARY PLUNDERING OF THE HOUSE.

1 KINGS 14:30-31 - CLOSING SUMMARY OF REHOBOAM'S REIGN

SOME LESSONS FROM 1 KINGS 14: SEEK THE LORD WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART. DON'T SETTLE FOR IDOLS OR COMPROMISE AND REJECT THE ONE TRUE GOD. DECIDE FOR YOURSELF TO GIVE HIM YOUR WHOLE HEART - DESPITE WHAT YOUR CURRENT LEADERS OR FOREFATHERS MIGHT HAVE DONE. YOU ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR LIFE, YOUR CHOICES. WHEN YOU CHOSE TO LIVE FOR THE LORD, HE WILL HONOR AND CARE FOR YOU. WHEN YOU REJECT HIM, YOU ARE LEFT TO THE ONES YOU HAVE CHOSEN OVER HIM TO BE YOUR DELIVERERS IN TIME OF TROUBLE OR ON THE LAST DAY. JEROBOAM WANTED TO WORSHIP A COW, AND WHEN HIS SON WAS SICK AND HIS KINGDOM IN TROUBLE, ALL THAT HE HAD WAS A COW TO DELIVER HIM. REHOBOAM MAY HAVE SOUGHT THE LORD WHEN TROUBLE CAME, BUT HE DID NOT MAINTAIN THE WHOLE-HEARTED DAVID-LIKE HEART OF SEEKING HIM.

BOTH KINGS HAD EXPERIENCED THE GOODNESS AND MERCY OF GOD, YET NEITHER RESPONDED TO THAT GOODNESS. THE KINGS OF JUDAH TO COME WILL EACH HAVE THAT CHOICE. BE LIKE THEIR FATHER DAVID OR BE LIKE THEIR FATHER BEFORE THEM. AND WE TOO IN MANY WAYS HAVE THAT DAILY CHOICE AS WELL.