
1KINGS 14: 1 At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick.

Abijah, son of Jeroboam, falls sick, 1Kgs 14:1. Jeroboam sends his wife disguised to Ahijah the prophet, and with her a present, to inquire concerning his son, 1Kgs 14:2-4. Ahijah discovers her by a Divine intimation and delivers to her a heavy message concerning the destruction of Jeroboam's house, and the death of her son, 1Kgs 14:5-16. The child dies, according to the prediction of Ahijah, 1Kgs 14:17. Jeroboam's reign and death, 1Kgs 14:18-20. Rehoboam's bad reign, and the apostasy of Judah, 1Kgs 14:21-24. Shishak, king of Egypt, invades Judea, spoils the temple, and takes away the golden shields made by Solomon; instead of which Rehoboam makes others of brass, 1Kgs 14:25-28. Rehoboam's reign and death, 1Kgs 14:29-31.

Verse 1

Abijah - fell sick - This was but a prelude to the miseries which fell on the house of Jeroboam; but it was another merciful warning, intended to turn him from his idolatry and wickedness.

1KINGS 14: 2 Jeroboam said to his wife, "Please get up and disguise yourself, that you won't be recognised as the wife of Jeroboam. Go to Shiloh. Behold, there is Ahijah the prophet, who spoke concerning me that I should be king over this people.

1KINGS 14: 3 Take with you ten loaves, and cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what will become of the child."

Verse 3

Ten loaves - Probably common or household bread.

Cracknels - נִקְדִּים nikkuddim, spotted, or perforated bread; thin cakes, pierced through with many holes, the same as is called Jews' bread to the present day, and used by them at the passover. It was customary to give presents to all great personages; and no person consulted a prophet without bringing something in his hand.

1KINGS 14: 4 Jeroboam's wife did so, and arose, and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. Now Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age.

1KINGS 14: 5 The LORD said to Ahijah, "Behold, the wife of Jeroboam comes to inquire of you concerning her son; for he is sick. Thus and thus you shall tell her; for it will be, when she comes in, that she will pretend to be another woman."

Verse 5

Feign herself to be another woman - It would have been discreditable to Jeroboam's calves, if it had been known that he had consulted a prophet of Jehovah.

1KINGS 14: 6 It was so, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said, "Come in, you wife of Jeroboam! Why do you pretend to be another? For I am sent to you with heavy news.

1KINGS 14: 7 Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you prince over my people Israel,

1KINGS 14: 8 and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it you; and yet you have not been as my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in my eyes,

Verse 8

And rent the kingdom away from the house of David - That is, permitted it to be rent, because of the folly and insolence of Rehoboam.

1KINGS 14: 9 but have done evil above all who were before you, and have gone and made you other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and have cast me behind your back:

1KINGS 14: 10 therefore, behold, I will bring evil on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam everyone who urinates on a wall, he who is shut up and he who is left at large in Israel, and will utterly sweep away the house of Jeroboam, as a man sweeps away dung, until it is all gone.

Verse 10

Him that pisseth against the wall - Every male. The phrase should be thus rendered wherever it occurs.

1KINGS 14: 11 He who dies of Jeroboam in the city shall the dogs eat; and he who dies in the field shall the birds of the sky eat: for the LORD has spoken it."

Verse 11

Shall the dogs eat - They shall not have an honorable burial: and shall not come into the sepulchres of their fathers.

1KINGS 14: 12 Arise therefore, and go to your house. When your feet enter into the city, the child shall die.

1KINGS 14: 13 All Israel shall mourn for him, and bury him; for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the LORD, the God of Israel, in the house of Jeroboam.

Verse 13

In him there is found some good thing - Far be it from God to destroy the righteous with the wicked; God respects even a little good, because it is a seed from himself. The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed.

1KINGS 14: 14 Moreover the LORD will raise him up a king over Israel, who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam. This is day! What? Even now.

1KINGS 14: 15 For the LORD will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water; and he will root up Israel out of this good land which he gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River, because they have made their Asherah poles, provoking the LORD to anger.

Verse 15

For the Lord shall smite Israel - See this prophecy fulfilled, 1Kgs 15:28-30, when Baasha destroyed all the house and posterity of Jeroboam.

1KINGS 14: 16 He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he has sinned, and with which he has made Israel to sin.”

1KINGS 14: 17 Jeroboam’s wife arose, and departed, and came to Tirzah. As she came to the threshold of the house, the child died.

1KINGS 14: 18 All Israel buried him, and mourned for him, according to the LORD’s word, which he spoke by his servant Ahijah the prophet.

1KINGS 14: 19 The rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he fought, and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

Verse 19

The rest of the acts of Jeroboam - are written in the - chronicles - For some important particulars relative to this reign, see 2 Chronicles 13:1-20.

1KINGS 14: 20 The days which Jeroboam reigned were two and twenty years: and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his place.

1KINGS 14: 21 Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there: and his mother’s name was Naamah the Ammonitess.

1KINGS 14: 22 Judah did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, above all that their fathers had done.

1KINGS 14: 23 For they also built them high places, and pillars, and Asherah poles, on every high hill, and under every green tree;

1KINGS 14: 24 and there were also sodomites in the land: they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD drove out before the children of Israel.

Verse 24

There were also sodomites in the land - **קִדְּשִׁים** kedeshim, consecrated persons; persons who had devoted themselves, in practices of the greatest impurity, to the service of the most impure idols.

1KINGS 14: 25 In the fifth year of king Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem;

1KINGS 14: 26 and he took away the treasures of the LORD's house, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made.

Verse 26

He took away the treasures - All the treasures which Solomon had amassed, both in the temple and in his own houses; a booty the most immense ever acquired in one place.

All the shields of gold which Solomon had made - These were three hundred in number, and were all made of beaten gold. See a computation of their value in the note on 1Kgs 10:17 (note).

1KINGS 14: 27 King Rehoboam made in their place shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the captains of the guard, who kept the door of the king's house.

1KINGS 14: 28 It was so, that as often as the king went into the LORD's house, the guard bore them, and brought them back into the guard room.

Verse 28

The guard bare them - The guard probably were just three hundred, answering to the number of the shields.

1KINGS 14: 29 Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, aren't they written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

1KINGS 14: 30 There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.

1KINGS 14: 31 Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David: and his mother's name was Naamah the Ammonitess. Abijam his son reigned in his place.

Verse 31

Naamah an Ammonitess - He was born of a heathen mother, and begotten of an apostate father. From such an impure fountain could sweet water possibly spring?

Abijam his son reigned in his stead - Though righteousness cannot be propagated, because it is supernatural, yet unrighteousness may, for that is a genuine offspring of nature. Abijam was the wicked son of an apostate father and heathenish mother. Grace may be grafted on a crab stock; but let none do evil that good may come of it. A bad stock will produce bad fruit.

Dr. Kennicott observes that the name of this king of Judah is now expressed three ways: here and in four other places it is Abijam or Abim; in two others it is Abihu, but in eleven other places it is Abiah, as it is expressed by St. Matthew, Mat 1:7, Ῥοβο α μ εγεννησε τον ABIA; and this is the reading of thirteen of Kennicott's and De Rossi's MSS., and of thirteen respectable editions of the Hebrew Bible. The Syriac is the same. The Septuagint in the London Polyglot has αβιου, Abihu; but in the Complutensian and Antwerp Polyglots, it is αβια, Abiah. Though the common printed Vulgate has Abiam, yet the Editio Princeps of the Vulgate, some MSS., and the text in the Complutensian and Antwerp Polyglots, have Abia; which without doubt is the reading that should in all cases be followed.

The rabbins say, and particularly Rab. Sol. Jarchi, that the Shishak mentioned in this chapter is Pharaoh Necho, and that he invaded Israel in order to get the ivory throne of his son-in-law Solomon, which he had always coveted; and this throne he carried away. It appears however that he spoiled the temple, the king's palace, etc., and in short took every thing away without resistance which he chose to carry off. It is very likely that this had a good effect on Rehoboam; it probably caused him to frequent the temple, 1Kgs 14:28, which it is likely he had before neglected. This history is more particularly told in 2 Chron. 12, to which the reader will do well to refer; and as to Rehoboam, though so much positive iniquity is not laid to his charge as to his father, yet little can be said for his piety; the idolatry introduced by Solomon does not appear to have been lessened in the days of Rehoboam.