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YouTube Prayer Link

A life of faith that keeps moving forward

In 1 Kings 14, Abijah, the son of Jeroboam, king of Judah, fell ill, and Jeroboam sent his wife to Shiloh to Ahijah, the prophet, and asked him to pray for Abijah. Jeroboam, like many Christians, went his own way when he was fine, completely disobeying God's commands, but remembered to pray to God when things went wrong. When she meets Ahijah, she tries to hide her identity, but Ahijah receives a divine revelation that reveals her true identity and the bad omen of the Jeroboam family. Ahijah prophesied that Jeroboam's family would be destroyed because they had forsaken God and done wicked things. He also prophesied Abijah's death and warned her that when she returned home, Jeroboam's son would die and his family would suffer calamity. And Abijah died, just as Ahijah had prophesied.

First Kings 14 tells the story of the reigns of Abijah, the son of Jeroboam, and Rehoboam, the son of Rehoboam, king of Judah, kings of Israel and Judah. This chapter shows the wickedness and disobedience of these two kings and their punishment by God and the decline of the nation as a result. Rehoboam left ten tribes as the kingdom of Judah (called the southern kingdom), and Namar gave birth to Rehoboam before Solomon became king, so she married Solomon while David was still alive, and the breach in David's dynasty actually began in David's later years. For Namah, Solomon built high places on the hill opposite Jerusalem for "Moloch, the abomination god of the children of Ammon." And Rehoboam's favorite wife, Maacah, "made an abomination of the idol Asherah." With such an idolatrous mother and an idolatrous wife, Rehoboam's spiritual condition can be imagined. And Jeroboam became king of Israel (called the northern kingdom) and ruled over the other two tribes.

Spiritual life is sailing against the current, and God's people face spiritual decline, especially God's chosen prophets. So those shepherds who shepherd God's people, they have a heavy

responsibility and must always be vigilant. The Bible also uses the example of the old prophet to remind the older preachers and pastors to keep their first love for God. Don't let the devil slowly erode your faith through the world. If you compromise with the world, you will become like the old prophets over time, with only a spiritual shell that trips over believers.

As we embark on a spiritual journey, vigilance becomes a way of life, a way of constantly reminding ourselves of God's grace and love. In the hustle and bustle of the world, it is often easy for us to lose ourselves, forget God's grace to us, and ignore all that He has given us.

However, vigilance is not just a state of mind, it is a spiritual practice. Being vigilant means not only noticing God's presence, but also living His will. During our busy days, we can stay spiritually awake through prayer, Bible reading, and fellowship with our brothers and sisters. These practices not only bring us closer to God, but also make us more appreciative of His grace.

In the midst of life's ups and downs, vigilance enables us to better face challenges and appreciate God's grace more deeply. When we are faced with difficult situations, being vigilant reminds us that God has saved us and given us strength and wisdom. When we experience success, vigilance humbles us and realizes that everything comes from God's grace.

Therefore, vigilance is not just an attitude, but also a way of life. In this world, we will face all kinds of temptations and temptations, but it is only by being vigilant that we can remain steadfast in our spiritual journey and not forget God's favor for us.

There are many passages in the Bible that remind us to always remember God's grace. Here are some examples:

Exodus 20:2 - "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt as a house of bondage. "

Deuteronomy 8:18 - "Remember the Lord your God, for he alone has strengthened you to accomplish great things, that he might establish the covenant which he swore to your fathers, the covenant he promised to you. "

Psalms 103:2 - "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his goodness. "

I Corinthians 1:4 - "I always give thanks to my God for you for the grace he has given you in Christ Jesus,"

2 Timothy 2:1 - "Therefore, my son, be strong in Christ Jesus. "

James 1:17 - "Every good gift and every perfect reward comes from above, in the Father of light, and is not like a turning shadow." "

These verses remind us not to forget God's grace to us, to always thank Him, and to live out our fear and love for Him.

We pray together

Heavenly Father, we have come before you, and thank you for giving us this wonderful opportunity to come to you. Today, we are praying before you for your help and guidance. Give us the spiritual strength and wisdom to keep our faith life moving forward and not going backwards.

Help us to keep your Word in mind and let your truth be a guide in our lives. As we face difficulties and trials, please give us unwavering faith and courage so that we will not be hindered by regression, but walk with you through every obstacle.

Lord, we acknowledge that we may encounter struggles and failures in our spiritual lives, but please give us the strength and grace to stand firm in your grace and steadfast in following your will. Keep our faith so that we may have victory in you, and glory to you forever. In Jesus name we pray amen.

## 1 Kings Chapter 14

1Kg. 14:1 At that time Abijah son of Jeroboam became ill,

1Kg. 14:2 and Jeroboam said to his wife, “Go, disguise yourself, so that you won’t be recognised 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.

1Kg. 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.”

1Kg. 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.

1Kg. 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.”

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

1Kg. 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 made you a leader over my people Israel.

1Kg. 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.

1Kg. 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 provoked me to anger and thrust me behind your back.

1Kg. 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.

1Kg. 14:11 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. The LORD has spoken!’

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

1Kg. 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.

1Kg. 14:14 “The LORD will raise up for himself a king over Israel who will cut off the family of Jeroboam. This is the day! What?

Yes, even now. [The meaning of the Hebrew for this sentence is uncertain.]

1Kg. 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 forefathers and scatter them beyond the River, [That is, the Euphrates] because they provoked the LORD to anger by making Asherah poles. [That is, symbols of the goddess Asherah; here and elsewhere in 1 Kings]

1Kg. 14:16 And he will give Israel up because of the sins Jeroboam has committed and has caused Israel to commit.”

1Kg. 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.

1Kg. 14:18 They buried him, and all Israel mourned for him, as the LORD had said through his servant the prophet Ahijah.

1Kg. 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.

1Kg. 14:20 He reigned for twenty-two years and then rested with his fathers. And Nadab his son succeeded him as king.

1Kg. 14:21 Rehoboam son of Solomon was king in Judah. He was fortyone years old when he became king, and he reigned for

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.

1Kg. 14:22 Judah did evil in the eyes of the LORD. By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than their fathers had done.

1Kg. 14:23 They also set up for themselves high places, sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree.

1Kg. 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.

1Kg. 14:25 In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt  
attacked Jerusalem.

1Kg. 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.

1Kg. 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.

1Kg. 14:28 Whenever the king went to the LORD's temple, the guards  
bore the shields, and afterwards they returned them to the  
guardroom.

1Kg. 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?

1Kg. 14:30 There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and  
Jeroboam.

1Kg. 14:31 And Rehoboam rested with his fathers and was buried with  
them in the City of David. His mother's name was Naamah;  
she was an Ammonite. And Abijah [Some Hebrew  
manuscripts and Septuagint (see also 2 Chron. 12:16); most  
Hebrew manuscripts Abijam] his son succeeded him as king.

Chapter 14 begins with the news that Jeroboam's son Abijah is sick, and Jeroboam sends his wife  
to inquire of the prophet Ahijah about his son's fate. Jeroboam instructs his wife to disguise  
herself so that Ahijah will not recognize her.

When Jeroboam's wife arrives, Ahijah is blind with old age, but God gives him a message for Jeroboam. Ahijah tells Jeroboam's wife that because Jeroboam has abandoned God and worshipped other gods, his entire family will be cut off and his descendants will be killed. This includes the death of Abijah, who will be the last of Jeroboam's family to die.

Ahijah also prophesies that a new king from the tribe of Judah will arise and destroy the idols and altars that Jeroboam has erected throughout the land. This new king will be like David, and his reign will be marked by obedience to God.

After delivering this message to Jeroboam's wife, Ahijah dies and is buried. Jeroboam's son Abijah dies as well, and is buried in his own tomb. Jeroboam himself dies later, and is succeeded by his son Nadab.

The chapter ends by noting that Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, reigns in Judah. However, his reign is also marked by idol worship and disobedience to God, as he allows the high places to remain in use and permits the worship of idols.

Overall, chapter 14 shows the consequences of disobedience to God's commands, as Jeroboam's family is cut off and his kingdom is destroyed. It also highlights the importance of true worship and obedience to God, as the prophecy of a new king from the tribe of Judah gives hope for a future king who will follow in the footsteps of David and lead the people in obedience to God.

Here are some important verses from 1 Kings chapter 14 in the Christian Bible:

1 Kings 14:1-6 - Jeroboam's son Abijah falls sick, and Jeroboam sends his wife to the prophet Ahijah to inquire about the child's fate.

1 Kings 14:7-16 - Ahijah prophesies against Jeroboam and his family, declaring that they will be cut off and that the kingdom will be taken from them because of their sin.

1 Kings 14:17-18 - Abijah dies, and is buried, and all Israel mourns for him.

1 Kings 14:19-20 - Jeroboam reigns for 22 years, but his reign is marked by continued sin and idolatry.

1 Kings 14:21-24 - After Jeroboam's death, his son Nadab becomes king, but continues in his father's sinful ways and is overthrown by Baasha.

These verses highlight the continuing theme of sin and disobedience to God's commands in the northern kingdom of Israel. Despite the warning from the prophet in the previous chapter, Jeroboam and his family continue in their sinful ways, leading to the eventual downfall of the kingdom. The prophecy against Jeroboam serves as a reminder of the consequences of disobedience, even for those in positions of power and authority.

In the fourteenth chapter of the book of 1 Kings in the Bible, we read about the prophecy of Ahijah against the house of Jeroboam, the wickedness of Jeroboam's family, and the death of his son. Here are some reflections on this chapter:

**Consequences of sin:** The chapter highlights the consequences of Jeroboam's sin and the idolatrous practices he introduced in Israel. God sends Ahijah the prophet to deliver a message of judgment, proclaiming that Jeroboam's entire household will be cut off and suffer for their disobedience. It serves as a reminder that sin has consequences, and God is just in His judgment.

**The faithfulness of God's prophets:** Despite the prevailing wickedness and idolatry, God raises up prophets like Ahijah to confront and condemn the sins of the leaders. This demonstrates God's faithfulness in raising voices of truth and righteousness in times of moral decline. It encourages us to stand firm in our faith and be willing to speak out against injustice and disobedience.

**The importance of repentance:** Although God pronounces judgment upon Jeroboam's household, He also offers a glimmer of hope by stating that Jeroboam's son will be buried with his ancestors, as he is the only one who has shown some semblance of repentance. This highlights the importance of genuine repentance and turning back to God. It reminds us that even in the midst of judgment, God is willing to extend mercy to those who humbly seek Him.

**The impact of leadership on the people:** The chapter reveals the influence of Jeroboam's wickedness and idolatry on the people of Israel. The nation had abandoned the worship of the true God and embraced false gods and practices. It reminds us of the significant role leaders play in shaping the spiritual direction of a nation or community. It underscores the importance of godly leadership and the responsibility leaders have in guiding people towards righteousness.

**God's sovereignty over the course of history:** The chapter portrays God's sovereignty over the events unfolding in Israel. The prophecies and judgments declared by Ahijah come to pass precisely as God had foretold. It reminds us that God is in control of the course of history, and His plans and purposes will ultimately prevail.

These reflections offer insights into the themes and lessons found in the fourteenth chapter of 1 Kings. They emphasize the consequences of sin, the faithfulness of God's prophets, the importance of repentance, the impact of leadership on the people, and God's sovereignty over the course of history. As you continue reading, you will encounter more narratives and teachings that further develop these themes and provide spiritual guidance.

