



Lesson 112

A Final Prophecy Against Jeroboam

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 1 Kings 14:1-20 • Setting: circa 930 – 909 B.C. • Main Characters: God, the prophet Ahijah, Jeroboam, Jeroboam's wife, and Abijah, Jeroboam's son. • Plot: Jeroboam seeks divine help for his ailing son. • Key word(s): “_____ tidings” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climax: 1 Kings 14:6 <i>And it was so, when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, that he said, Come in, thou wife of Jeroboam; why feignest thou thyself to be another? for I am sent to thee with heavy tidings...</i> |
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“Go to Shiloh...”

- (1 Ki. 14:1-3) Sometime in Jeroboam's reign, his young son Abijah became dangerously ill. Seeking divine intervention, Jeroboam sent his wife to the prophet _____ – the same prophet that had previously foretold Jeroboam of his coming reign. (1 Kings 11:29-39)
- Jeroboam's wife was instructed to disguise herself from the prophet and to take ten loaves of bread, some cracknells (hard biscuits), and a jar of honey as a gift. Why do you think she took such common gifts instead of more luxurious ones? _____

“Go, tell Jeroboam...”

- (1 Ki. 14:4-5) Ahijah was told by the LORD that he would be visited by Jeroboam's wife and that she would intercede for her sick son. God then gave Ahijah the _____ Jeroboam's wife should share with her husband.
- (1 Ki. 14:6-16) Though old and blind, Ahijah identified Jeroboam's wife before she could pretend to be someone else. He then gave her “heavy tidings” - a prophetic warning of God's coming _____ on the house of Jeroboam and all Israel:
 - Jeroboam was told that he failed to follow the example of _____ by following the LORD with all his heart and committing idolatry. (vv 8-9)
 - Therefore, every _____ in Jeroboam's house would be killed. (v 11)
 - The child for which he sought divine intervention would die of his illness. (vv 12-13)
 - The entire nation of Israel would be _____ out of the land for her participation in Jeroboam's national system of paganism. (vv 15-16)

5. (1 Ki. 14:19-20) At some later time, Jeroboam also died, having reigned for 22 years. His son _____ reigned in his place.

Application

6. Ahijah's prophecy marks a major turning point in the history of Israel. The curse of the _____ was falling upon the Hebrews of the northern ten tribes:

(a) Jeroboam's house would suffer the fate of those who forsook the covenant.

Deuteronomy 28:26 And thy carcase shall be meat unto all _____ of the air, and unto the _____ of the earth, and no man shall fray them away.

(b) Though previously warned of expulsion from the promised land, now Israel was told it was a _____. (Exo. 20:12)

7. Some people bristle at the idea that God allows the innocent to die, as in the case of Jeroboam's son. But a couple of details are worthy of our attention:

(a) Though Jeroboam's son is referred to as a child, he was probably old enough to make _____ decisions. The LORD saw something honorable in the boy, saying, *"for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found some good thing toward the LORD God of Israel..."* Matthew Henry said, "A good child in the house of Jeroboam is a miracle of divine grace: to be there untainted is like being in the fiery furnace unhurt, unsinged."¹

(b) In the LORD's economy, sometimes death is an act of _____.

8. What a remarkable act of God's grace that the area of Israel that was _____ to be cursed also received such great attention of the Savior's earthly ministry. (Isa. 9:1-2)

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): heavy • 1. Ahijah • 2. This was a present in unison with the peasant character she assumed."² • 3. message • 4. wrath; a) David; b) male; d) uprooted • 5. Nadab • 6. covenant; Deu. 28:26 fowl, beasts; b) certainty • 7. a) spiritual; b) mercy • 8. first

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.

² Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown. *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. Vol. 1. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997. Print.