

Do we make God our Backup Plan
Sins of Jeroboam 1 Kings 14 **(Slide 1)**

Reading 1 Kings 14:1-20

(Slide 2)

I see so many people on social media, particularly Facebook, bemoaning just how tough their life is and that they could surely use positive vibes and many even call for prayer. They've had a tough work week or had a difficult time with their young children or perhaps they've been offended by one of their friends. Again, they ask those that would, to pray for them. **(Slide 3)**

Most of their life's problems are normal elements of adversity that everyone has faced. However, since they have no ability to cope with what is normal, nor a true spiritual relationship with the one who can hear their prayers, they falter in despair.

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Then on the flip side, for many of these folks, their previous posts indicate that prayer and religion are the furthest thing from their true identity and lifestyle. They sensationalize their contempt for prayer by the type of life they lead.

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Prayer, then, is not an instrument of communication of convenience or to be sought out of desperation when trouble comes, but it is a reflection and testament of our true faith in an all knowing and Loving God.

Prayer is a time to express our concerns and troubles and then to put our trust in God to help us through our adversity. Prayer is also a time

to praise Him for his blessing or to petition Him on behalf of a brother or sister. It is a form of communication that is only effective if our relationship is right with God. God is worthy of praise in the good times and the bad times. He is our Rock! When we understand that, we won't live our lives in a state of despair, but in peace.

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So in reality, many people make God their last resort in times of trouble. Their backup plan.

This is the case with King Jeroboam, King of Israel. We met up with Jeroboam when he was a "valiant warrior" in King Solomon's Kingdom. The one nation would be divided and His Kingship was predicted by Ahijah. It is important to note that his Kingdom was clearly established by God. However, Jeroboam did not serve the God that created such a prestigious position for him. He worshiped Idols.

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Wouldn't it be great if our leaders worshiped the one true God. Even today, most of our leaders serve a false religion, therefore a false god. They have a false sense of security because they believe that they are untouchable, even by the Hand of God. Everyone that is under their rule suffers even though they say they are working on behalf of their constituents.

They even remark that God approves of their decisions even on subjects such as abortion, homosexuality, gender identity and the like. Their religion is false and they cannot disguise their virtuous "hypocrisy."

In Numbers 32 we see that the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad had amassed a large amount of livestock and desired to stay on the other side of the Jordan which offered perfect resources for their livestock. They told Moses that they would send their armed fighting men over with the Israelites to conquer the land and then come back over to this side of the Jordan to live and raise their families.

After a conference with the leaders of Israel, Moses said if they held up their end of the bargain their obligation to the Lord would end and they would be blessed. But if they didn't:

Numbers 32:23 **(Slide 8)**

23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out.

In other words, God will know what you have or have not done according to your word. Such is the fate of many of our leaders. Even though many people will be "fooled," You cannot hide sin from God with virtue signaling.

As we read 1 Kings 14, we can sum up the story in this way. King Jeroboam's son is very ill. Even to the point of death. Though the Bible doesn't tell us the child's age, there are indicators within the text that would suggest he is very young.

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In addition, the scripture doesn't reveal any of the measures that Jeroboam may have taken to heal his son, but from reading the scriptures with similar circumstances, idol worshipers typically relied on their man-made images, soothsayers and magicians in times of distress. I believe Jeroboam is no exception.

Desperate for healing for the son he loves, he sends his wife to Ahijah for help. **(Slide 10)** His wife disguises herself so that the Old Prophet wouldn't recognize her. This would indicate that Jeroboam realized that if the Prophet knew that it was on his behalf that she came, that his lifestyle may hurt his chances of a favorable outcome. What Jeroboam didn't realize is that you can't hide from God.

Ahijah could no longer see, so God was his eyes!

1 Kings 14:6 **(Slide 11)**

6 When Ahijah heard the sound of her feet coming in the doorway, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam, why do you pretend to be another woman? For I am sent to you *with a harsh message*.

David says in Psalms 139:1-2 **(Slide 12)**

O Lord, You have searched me and known *me*.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

You understand my thought from afar.

The Hebrew writer records in Chapter 4 verse 13:

(Slide 13)

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

The lesson is that we can't disguise ourselves so that God will not recognize us. He not only knows where we are, but He knows what we've done.

Jeroboam's wife disguised herself to no avail and I wonder, was her disguise so elaborate that she tried to disguise her voice as well?

How wide was the gap between God and Jeroboam?

The Bible instructs us in:

Hebrews 10:25 (**Slide 14**)

25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

This instruction is for many reasons. In particular, there is no substitute for face to face worship with those who have “like precious faith.” Without it we lose touch with one another and do not realize what is going on in the lives of those in the brotherhood. We are to strengthen and encourage one another and help each other keep our focus on the impending return of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

It seems that Jeroboam hadn’t been to Shiloh, the place of worship, for sometime. He didn’t realize that Ahijah was blind. He was so busy prioritizing his wants and desires and serving false gods that he no longer had any relationship with God, nor the people of God.

Yet, he came to God out of desperation. It doesn’t matter if one has risen to the top or struggles at the bottom, whether we are rich or poor, famous or infamous, we cannot escape the consequence of sin, nor escape death no matter how desperate we become.

The Old Prophet told Jeroboam's wife that she would not get home in time to be with her son as he took his last breath. (**Slide 15**) As she enters the city, the child will die.

Many would ask, “Why would a loving God allow a young child to die when He has the ability to restore the child to life?” We simply don’t

know what God knows. The child potentially could have been spared the fate of his father who worshiped idols even though he was warned not too. The Bible tells us in verse 9 that Ahijah says to Jeroboam:

1 Kings 14:9 **(Slide 16)**

9 you also have done more evil than all who were before you, and have gone and made for yourself other gods and molten images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back-

His father was so wicked that growing up in that household wouldn't have given the child much of a chance to live a life pleasing to God. The Old Prophet told Jeroboam's wife that God had exalted her husband as King, in verse 7.

If this child is very young, as I believe him to be, God has exalted him above his father by giving him eternal life and sparing him from eternal destruction. **(Slide 17)** God considers Jeroboam's son to be the "one good thing" in his house. He was the only male person to have a proper burial in Jeroboam's household. All others in the household that died would be eaten by dogs within the city for all within its walls to witness. In the fields the birds would eat those that died.

I believe this indicates God's saving grace toward the child. This is a true testament to our God's loving nature and his justice!

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Not only did Jeroboam's disobedience cause much heartache in death, but he destroyed the hope of his posterity forever. Not only had Jeroboam sinned in the sight of God, he caused many to follow after him and sin in God's sight as well.

He came to God in desperation, but since he didn't have a relationship with Him, God judged him. He tried to make God his backup plan.....when all else failed.

What can we take from this lesson: **(Slide 19)**

1. We cannot hide from God! There is a consequence for sin! "Be sure your sin will find you out!"
2. God is our God in good times and bad.
3. His response relies on the relationship we have with him.
4. He will not be our back up plan. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing!"

Invitation