

## Jeroboam: The King Who Threw Away A Gift

### INTRODUCTION.

- A. The story of king Jeroboam is one of opportunity lost.
- B. Jeroboam benefitted from the error of Solomon. Jeroboam was given a great kingdom and told that if he would obey God, he would be blessed and his family would continue to rule over the kingdom.
- C. Sadly, Jeroboam, like so many others, threw away a wonderful opportunity, a wonderful gift.
- D. It is the purpose of this lesson to examine the life of Jeroboam to see what lessons we can learn from his wicked life.

### I. JEROBOAM'S RISE TO POWER.

- A. Jeroboam's rise to power began with the sins of Solomon. (I Kings 11:1-13)
  - 1. Solomon had followed the influences of his many wives and had led Israel into idolatry.
  - 2. As a result, the Lord told Solomon that He would tear the kingdom from Solomon. However, because of the faithfulness of David, one tribe would be kept by Solomon and his descendants. (vs 11-13)
- B. Jeroboam rebelled against Solomon. Ahijah told Jeroboam that the Lord would give him 10 tribes of Israel to rule. (I Kings 11:26-40)
- C. After Solomon died, Jeroboam, who had fled to Egypt, returned to Israel to lead Israel in a revolt against Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. (I Kings 12:1-24)

### II. JEROBOAM LED ISRAEL IN SIN.

- A. The Lord had promised Jeroboam that if he would keep the commandments of the Lord, that the Lord would build for him an enduring house. (I Kings 11:38)
- B. The first act of Jeroboam was to establish idols or golden calves in Dan and Bethel. (I Kings 12:25-33)
- C. God sent a young prophet to preach against Jeroboam. (I Kings 13:1-10) (*Note: The prophecymade by the young prophet was fulfilled in II Kings 23:15-20. King Josiah did tear down the altar at Bethel.*)
- D. After the young prophet departed, king Jeroboam returned to his sinful ways. He made priests of every person who wanted to be a priest. (I Kings 13:33-34)

### III. THE LORD PASSED JUDGMENT UPON JEROBOAM.

- A. After having been warned by the young prophet, Jeroboam continued in his wickedness. At that time, Jeroboam's son, Abijah, became sick. Jeroboam sent his wife to see Ahijah. (I Kings 14:1-5)
- B. The Lord had told Ahijah that Jeroboam's wife was coming to see him. The Lord told Ahijah to tell Jeroboam's wife to take the message back that the Lord was going to bring disaster upon the house of Jeroboam and upon Israel. (I Kings 14:6-16)
- C. Jeroboam's wife returned home. The sick child, Abijah, died just as Ahijah had prophesied. (I Kings 14:17-18)
- D. Later in the reign of Jeroboam, Abijah, king of Judah made war against Israel. By relying upon the Lord, Judah was victorious over Israel. Jeroboam did not "recover strength again in the days of Abijah; and the Lord struck him, and he died." (II Chronicles 13:1-20; I Kings 14:19-20)
- E. Jeroboam's son, Nadab, took the throne of Israel. Two years later, Baasha, the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, killed Nadab and all the house of Jeroboam. This was in fulfillment of Ahijah's prophecy that the Lord would bring destruction upon the house of Jeroboam. (I Kings 15:25-30; Cf. I Kings 14:6-16) (Note: *Amos 7:7-9 records the prophecy of Amos that said the Lord would raise the sword against the house of Jeroboam.*)

#### IV. LESSONS LEARNED.

- A. Like Jeroboam, we have been given a gift.
  - 1. Jeroboam was given a kingdom. (I Kings 11:26-35)
  - 2. We have been given a gift.
    - a. The gift of the Holy Spirit which is the promise of salvation. (Acts 2:38-39)
    - b. The gift of eternal life. (Romans 6:23)
    - c. The gift of salvation. (Ephesians 2:8)
  - 3. Let us always be thankful for this gift and do our very best to serve the Lord all the days of our life.
- B. Obedience to the Lord brings great blessings.
  - 1. Had Jeroboam obeyed God, he would have been a great ruler with a long line of successors. (I Kings 11:38)
  - 2. If we will obey the Lord, then we will receive a great blessing. We will spend eternity with God in Heaven. (Matthew 7:21; John 14:1-7)

- C. Our legacy should be one of obedience, not wickedness.
1. The Lord said against Jeroboam, *“but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back . . .”* (I Kings 14:9, NKJV) From that point on, the name Jeroboam was synonymous with sin and wickedness. Consider the following examples.
    - a. Speaking about king Omri - *“For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin, provoking the Lord God of Israel to anger with their idols.”* (I Kings 16:26, NKJV)
    - b. Speaking of king Jehu - *“However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan.”* (II Kings 10:29, NKJV)
    - c. Speaking of king Jeroboam II - *“In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, became king in Samaria, and reigned forty-one years. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.”* (II Kings 14:23-24)
  2. Contrast the wicked legacy of Jeroboam with the righteous legacy of David.
    - a. I Kings 11:34 - *“However I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of My servant David, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes.”* (NKJV)
    - b. II Chronicles 28:1 - *“Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord, as his father David had done.”* (NKJV)
    - c. Acts 13:22 - *“And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’”* (NKJV) (cf. I Samuel 13:14)
  3. When you die, will you be accurately remembered for your faithful service to God? Or will you be remembered as a sinner?
    - a. Will you be remembered as David who kept the Lord’s

commandments and who followed the Lord with all his heart, to do only what was right in the eyes of the Lord?

b. Will you be remembered as Jeroboam who had done more evil than all who had been before him?

4. The way people remember you, your legacy, can only be shaped by you.

**CONCLUSION.**

A. As we approach the end of this lesson, let me ask you three questions:

1. If you have received God's gift of salvation, then are you using that gift as God has intended, using it to feed your hope so that you might live a faithful life? Do not be like Jeroboam who threw his gift away.

2. Are you obeying the Lord? If so, then you will receive great blessings; the greatest blessing being eternal life with God in Heaven.

3. Are you leaving a legacy of obedience and righteousness?

B. Let us all learn from the lessons of Jeroboam's disobedience.

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