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22-April-2021 Message 1

ESV 15 Minutes

**You Reap What You Sow**

***1 Kings 14:1-20***

# Introduction

### Interest: At the closing chapel last semester, our principal announced that two students had been expelled without going into details. They must have done something seriously wrong. I know that you are curious what they did, so am I. But let me pull your thoughts back and ask:

### Need: Are ***you*** indulging in something that is wrong and displeases God?

### Subject: What results will you see in your life from indulging in sin?

### Background: Today we will see what God did to a man who knew better but continued to indulge himself in sin. King Jeroboam had built temples and idols for his people to worship. Once, while he was offering sacrifices at the altar at Bethel, God sent a prophet to pronounce judgment on that place. While returning home, this godly prophet was deceived by another prophet and ended up disobeying God. As a result, he was killed. A godly prophet was killed for his disobedience. So, would God make an exception for the godless Jeroboam?

### Preview: In 1 Kings 14:1-20, we will see God’s message to Jeroboam in three parts.

### Text: 1 Kings 14:1-20 (ESV).

(You reap what you sow. So, the first part is:)

# I. God knows everything (1-9). God knows everything, nothing can be hidden from him.

 [God rejected Jeroboam for his unfaithfulness and leading his people to worship idols (1-9).]

## Let us read verses 1 to 5: At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick. And Jeroboam said to his wife, “Arise, and disguise yourself, that it not be known that you are the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh. Behold, Ahijah the prophet is there, who said of me that I should be king over this people. Take with you ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what shall happen to the child.” Jeroboam's wife did so. She arose and went to Shiloh and came to the house of Ahijah. Now Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were dim because of his age. And the Lord said to Ahijah, “Behold, the wife of Jeroboam is coming to inquire of you concerning her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus shall you say to her.”

## God knows everything. He saw through Jeroboam’s deceit and told Prophet Ahijah.

## ILL: Consider this. When we badly need an extension for an assignment, we might approach the professor and asked leading questions on the assignment hoping to hear the magic words “Do you need an extension?” Yes? I can see the smiles around. Honestly, the professor would have guessed our intention from all the visual cues. For God, he can see beyond the cues, right into the heart. He knows everything, nothing is hidden.

## God knew all the evil that Jeroboam had done. Look at verse 9: “You have done evil above all who were before you and have gone and made for yourself other gods and metal images, provoking me to anger, and have cast me behind your back.”

## God knows everything.

(What will happen to those who continue to sin? The second part is:)

# II. Punishments await the sinners (10-16).

 [God would end Jeroboam’s dynasty and remove his favor from Israel (10-16).]

## Let us read from verses 10 and 11: “Therefore behold, I will bring harm upon the house of Jeroboam and will cut off from Jeroboam every male, both bond and free in Israel, and will burn up the house of Jeroboam, as a man burns up dung until it is all gone. **11**Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat.”

## How about the people, the nation of Israel? Verses 14 and 15 say: “Moreover, the Lord will raise up for himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam today. And henceforth, the Lord will strike Israel as a reed is shaken in the water and root up Israel out of this good land that he gave to their fathers and scatter them beyond the Euphrates, because they have made their Asherim, provoking the Lord to anger.”

## God would end Jeroboam’s lineage with terrible deaths (10-14). God would remove his favor from Israel and exile the people from the land (15-16).

## Punishments await Jeroboam and Israel. God would cut off Jeroboam’s dynasty and all those in his house would die terrible deaths. Similarly, Israel would be sent into exile in the future.

## ILL: Last week, Matt mentioned a list of pastors in USA who fell in sexual sin. Singapore is no better. I did a search this week and found a few articles. One was a pastor who had sex with an underaged church member in the church premises, and another pastor was caught taking upskirt photos.

## I believe that there are many others who escaped unnoticed. But the Apostle Paul said 1 Tim 5:24 (NIV) “The sins of some are obvious, reaching the place of judgement ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them.” Sooner or later, everyone must face the wrong that he has done. Punishments await the sinners.

(How about those who are faithful to God? The third part is…)

# III. Blessings await the faithful (17-20).

 [Abijah died and was buried according to God’s word (17-20).]

## Now, we read verses 17 and 18: “Then Jeroboam's wife arose and departed and came to Tirzah. And as she came to the threshold of the house, the child died. **18**And all Israel buried him and mourned for him, according to the word of the Lord, which he spoke by his servant Ahijah the prophet.” Abijah was the only one to be buried because God saw something pleasing in him (v13). His death and burial were the start of the prophecies against Jeroboam.

## God will bestow his blessings on the faithful. Do not confuse blessings with prosperity. To be blessed is to be highly favored by God, showered with his grace and mercy. Abijah did not recovered, he died. However, he had the whole nation mourning and buried him.

## ILL: Two days ago, at the SOTE chapel, we had the farewell session for Dr Rick and Dr Koh. Both have served God in the ministry for decades, including many years in SBC. There were tributes from students from the class of 2008 that remembered their teachings and way of lives and prepared a video to wish them well in their next stage of ministry. Their walk with God and engagements with students have borne fruit. Truly, God’s blessings and favor have been with them through the years.

## Blessings await the faithful.

(Let me do a recap. What results will you see in your life from indulging in sin?)

# Conclusion

### You will reap what you sow [Main Idea].

### God knows everything. Nothing is hidden from him [MP1].

### Punishments await the sinners. Those who choose to continue in their sinful ways, punishments await. It may be immediate or later, but it will happen [MP2].

### Blessings await the faithful. God’s favour will be on the faithful [MP3].

### What are you sowing today? Are you making the most of your time here to study hard, learn more God and yourself? Are you handling your assignments with integrity? Are you relating to other schoolmates of the opposite sex, with respect? What are you doing that you would not like your classmates to know? We can hide from others, but we cannot hide from God. So, if God is speaking and warning you today, stop and repent. Ask God for his help to turn away from it [Application].Study Questions (Step 1)

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### In 1 Kgs 13:33,34 it recorded that Jeroboam continued in his evil way. He appointed priests at the high places. In 1 Kgs 13:1-32, it recorded a man of God confronting Jeroboam of his evil ways. This man of God was deceived by another prophet and was killed for his disobedience.

### Going further back to 1 Kgs 12:25-33, it recorded that Jeroboam made two gold calves and set them up in Bethel and Dan each for the people under his rule to worship. He told them “Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt” (1 Kgs 12:28). He also made temples on the high places (mountain top) and appointed priests, not from the Levites, breaking from God’s laws (1 Kgs 12:31).

### He also appointed a feast in the eighth month to be celebrated at Bethel (1 Kgs 12:32), in replacement of the feasts commanded by God in Lev 23 – the three feasts of the Lord in the seventh month at Jerusalem were Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Feast of Booths.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### This passage showed God’s judgment on Jeroboam, the first king of the northern kingdom. Although he was not of royal blood, God appointed him as king of the Northern Kingdom that comprised ten tribes. But instead of leading his people to worship God, he led them into idolatry.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### This narrative was like that of King David’s child that was conceived with Bathsheba. The child was doomed to die and nothing that the father could do about it. It appeared to be a judgment on Jeroboam where God had exalted him to be a king, but he chose to do evil and turned the people away from God to worship idols and false gods (1 Kgs 14:7-8).

### Jeroboam might also be seen as God’s instrument for punishing Solomon’s sins which ended the Davidic rule over all Israel (1 Kgs 11:9-13). Jeroboam’s leading the Northern Kingdom away from worshipping God had a large negative impact on the kingdom and was a major factor in its exile from the land.

# Sources Used

### Barnes, William. *1-2 Kings*. Cornerstone Biblical Commentary. Edited by Philip W. Comfort. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2012.

### House, Paul R. *1, 2 Kings: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture*. The New American Commentary. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 1995.

### Duane, Lindsey. “Leviticus.” In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*. 1st ed. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985.

# Questions & Answers (cf. p. 22 #1)

### Who was Jeroboam (v1)? He was the first king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. He had served in Solomon’s administration but fled to Egypt after he rebelled against Solomon. He returned after Solomon’s death and was elevated to kingship after King Rehoboam turned against the northern tribes of Israel (1 Kgs 12:1-24).

### What was special about the place Shiloh (v2)? Shiloh was the place of the tabernacle from the time of Joshua to Samuel. It is between Shechem to the north and Bethel to the south (Judg 21:19).

### Who was Ahijah the prophet (v2)? He was the prophet that God sent to Jeroboam to proclaim that he would be king over the ten northern tribes of Israel (1 Kgs 11:29-39).

### What were the “metal images” (v9)? These were likely to be the two golden calves that Jeroboam made and placed at Bethel and Dan (12:28,29).

### What were the Asherim (v15)? Sometimes translated as Asherah poles, they were used in the worship of the Canaanite goddess Asherah.

### Where was Tirzah and how was it related to this story (v17)? This was the city where Jeroboam stayed to rule the northern kingdom (1 Kgs 16:9).

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Subject: The consequences of Jeroboam and Israel’s evil ways

Complement: would be an end of Jeroboam’s dynasty and God’s favor on Israel.

# Possible Illustrations

### Crime does not pay, punishments await.

# Possible Applications

### A man reaps what he sows.

# Older Outlines of This Sermon Text or Outlines by Others (Books, Commentaries, etc.)

### The Bible Knowledge Commentary

#### Ahijah’s Prophecy Against Jeroboam (v1-18)

##### The sickness of Jeroboam’s son (v1-5)

##### The fate of Jeroboam’s dynasty (6-18)

#### Jeroboam’s Death (19-21)

**You Reap What You Sow**

***1 Kings 14:1-20***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The consequences of Jeroboam and Israel’s evil ways would be an end of Jeroboam’s dynasty and God removing his favor from Israel (14:1-20).

# I. The reasons that God rejected Jeroboam were because he was unfaithful to God and led the people to worship idols (14:1-9).

## Jeroboam sent his wife in disguise and with goodies to Ahijah to seek help for Abijah, his sick son (14:1-4).

## Before Jeroboam’s wife arrived, God told Ahijah of Jeroboam’s deceitful plan and gave him a message of doom for Jeroboam (14:5-7).

## God had rejected Jeroboam because of his evil ways, for turning away from God and setting up idols for his people to worship (14:8-9).

# II. The consequences of Jeroboam and Israel’s evil ways would be a terrible end to Jeroboam’s dynasty and Israel’s exile from the land (14:10-16).

## God would punish Jeroboam by ending his lineage with terrible deaths and raise another king to take over his dynasty (14:10-14).

## God would punish Israel by removing his favor on the nation and exiling the people from the land (14:15-16).

# III. The manner that Abijah died was according to God’s word (14:17-20).

## Abijah died upon Jeroboam’s wife returning to Tirzah and was buried according to God’s word (14:17-18).

## Jeroboam reigned for 22 years and was succeeded by his son Nadab (14:19-20).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will turn away from their sinful ways.

**Sermon Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)—Steps 5-6

# Introduction

### Interest: Two SBC students were expelled.

### Need: Are you indulging in something that is wrong and displeases God?

### Subject: What results will you see in your life from indulging in sin?

### Background: A godly prophet was killed for his disobedience. So, would God make an exception for the godless Jeroboam?

### Preview: We will see God’s message to Jeroboam in three parts.

### Text: 1 Kings 14:1-20.

(You reap what you sow. So, part one is:)

# I. God knows everything (1-9).

 [God had rejected Jeroboam for his unfaithfulness and leading his people to worship idols (1-9).]

## God revealed to Ahijah of Jeroboam’s deceitful plan (1-7). God had rejected Jeroboam for his evil ways, turning away from God and setting up idols for his people to worship (8-9).

## God knows everything (ILL: Extensions for assignments)

(What will happen to those who continue to sin?)

# II. Punishments await the sinners (10-16).

 [God would end Jeroboam’s dynasty and remove his favor from Israel (10-16).]

## God would end Jeroboam’s lineage with terrible deaths (10-14). God would remove his favor from Israel and exile the people from the land (15-16).

## God will punish those who continue to do evil (ILL: Sooner or later).

(How about those who are faithful to God?)

# III. Blessings await the faithful (17-20).

 [Abijah died and was buried according to God’s word (17-20).]

## Abijah’s death and burial were according to God’s word (17-20).

## God will bestow his favor on the faithful (ILL: Dr Rick, Dr Koh’s service in SBC).

(Let me do a recap. What results will you see in your life?)

# Conclusion

### You will reap what you sow [MI].

### God knows everything. Nothing is hidden from him [MP1].

### Punishments await the sinners. Those who choose to continue in their sinful ways, punishments await. It may be immediate or later, but it will happen [MP2].

### Blessings await the faithful. God’s favour will be on the faithful [MP3].

### Is there an area of your life that displeases God? Have you heard God’s warning and been ignoring it? If so, repent. Ask God for his help to turn away from it [Application].