

“One Life to Live”
1 Kings 14:19-20
(Preached at Trinity, March 21, 2021)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. I had every intention of moving on to the next section. From here on the author switches back and forth between Israel and Judah—the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom as he details the events in each kingdom.
 - A. We'll see that almost universally, the kings of Israel are wicked and in the end God's judgment will come upon them and they will be destroyed by the Assyrians.
 - B. The kings of Judah are almost as wicked, but we'll occasionally see a ray of light with a king pleasing in the sight of God. In the end Judah too will come under God's judgment as the Babylonians lead them away into captivity. But God doesn't forget His covenant.
2. The Old Testament kings have much to teach us.
 - They teach us God's covenant faithfulness. In their unfaithfulness God remains faithful.
 - They teach us the unfailing power of God's Word. As we've seen, the phrase “Word of the Lord” is used 33 times in 1 Kings and another 16 times in 2 Kings. The Word and purpose of the Lord will stand. This proves an unfailing comfort for us.
 - They tell us the futility and folly of every earthly kingdom. Only the Kingdom of our Lord offers true peace and prosperity.
 - The kings of Israel and Judah also put on display the corruption of the human heart. Power and authority often corrupt. Wealth often leads a soul away from God. We are naturally given over to idolatry.
3. 1 & 2 Kings also remind us that our lives are being recorded. 33 times we read the phrase, “now the rest of the acts of . . . “
 - A. The first time we saw it was at the end of Solomon's life.

1 Kings 11:41-43 NAU - "Now the rest of the acts of Solomon and whatever he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon? ⁴² Thus the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. ⁴³ And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David, and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place."

 1. There was an entire book dedicated to the life of Solomon. It is referred to here as “The Book of the Acts of Solomon.” It no longer exists, but the original readers of the Kings would have been familiar with it.
 2. Solomon's life was testimony of a life well-lived. God granted him wisdom to rule well and much of what we read of him characterized this wisdom. Sadly, however, he did not finish well. It would be interesting to read how this chronicle of Solomon's life recorded the final years.

- B. Now in **Verse 19** of this chapter we find the phrase used at the end of the life of Jeroboam.
- 1 Kings 14:19-20 NAU** - "Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he made war and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. ²⁰ The time that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years; and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his place."
- These books known as the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel and Judah are mentioned 33 times in 1 & 2 Kings. Again, these are books that no longer exist. We shouldn't confuse them with the books of 1&2 Chronicles in our Bibles.
4. The final words we hear of Jeroboam describe his attempt at deceiving God and of Ahijah's words of God's condemnation upon the house of Jeroboam.
- 1 Kings 14:9-11 NAU** - "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-- ¹⁰ therefore behold, I am bringing calamity on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male person, both bond and free in Israel, and I will make a clean sweep of the house of Jeroboam, as one sweeps away dung until it is all gone. ¹¹ "Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city the dogs will eat. And he who dies in the field the birds of the heavens will eat; for the LORD has spoken *it*."
5. Now suddenly in **Verse 20** we read of his death.
- A. Of his son we read:
- 1 Kings 14:18 NAU** - "All Israel buried him and mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD"
- B. We read nothing of Israel mourning this king. In fact, God has declared that Abijah would be the last descendent of Jeroboam to receive a decent burial.
6. We read of Jeroboam's death in 2 Chronicles. After the death of Rehoboam, his son Abijah reigned in his place. Once again Israel and Judah went to war. Judah was greatly outnumbered; Jeroboam's army was twice as large as Abijah's.
- A. Abijah boldly stood and announced Jeroboam's sin of rejecting God.
- 2 Chronicles 13:8-10 NAU** - "So now you intend to resist the kingdom of the LORD through the sons of David, being a great multitude and *having* with you the golden calves which Jeroboam made for gods for you. ⁹ "Have you not driven out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron and the Levites, and made for yourselves priests like the peoples of *other* lands? Whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams, even he may become a priest of *what are* no gods. ¹⁰ "But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken Him; and the sons of Aaron are ministering to the LORD as priests, and the Levites attend to their work."
- 2 Chronicles 13:12 NAU** - "Now behold, God is with us at *our* head and His priests with the signal trumpets to sound the alarm against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against the LORD God of your fathers, for you will not succeed."

- B. And Israel did not succeed. They were defeated. We read that Jeroboam's defeat was followed by his death. God killed him.
2 Chronicles 13:16-20 NAU - "When the sons of Israel fled before Judah, God gave them into their hand. ¹⁷ Abijah and his people defeated them with a great slaughter, so that 500,000 chosen men of Israel fell slain. ¹⁸ Thus the sons of Israel were subdued at that time, and the sons of Judah conquered because they trusted in the LORD, the God of their fathers. ¹⁹ Abijah pursued Jeroboam and captured from him *several* cities, Bethel with its villages, Jeshanah with its villages and Ephron with its villages. ²⁰ Jeroboam did not again recover strength in the days of Abijah; and the LORD struck him and he died."
7. His life was recorded in a book of men—the Book of the Kings of Israel.
- A. We can't be sure what the book recorded of Jeroboam's life. His beginning was promising. He was described in positive terms. He was valiant and industrious. Because of his excellence he caught the attention of the king.
1 Kings 11:28 NAU - "Now the man Jeroboam was a valiant warrior, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious, he appointed him over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph."
- B. Then we read that God set an incredible opportunity before him. God declared He was about to strip the kingdom from Solomon and give it to him – all except the tribe of Judah. But God made the promise conditional.
1 Kings 11:38 NAU - "Then it will be, that if you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight by observing My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you."
8. But Jeroboam's life was a total failure. His life was recorded in the human record: the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. It recorded, "how he made war and how he reigned" You might add, "And how he turned his back on God and led Israel into idolatry." The truth is this book was an incomplete record. And it no longer exists. But there is another record, permanent, indelible, and perfect.
- I. For the righteous, God records their good deeds
- A. We aren't saved by our good works, yet our good works are well-pleasing to God
1. Paul declared our salvation is not void of works
Ephesians 2:8-10 NAU - "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."
 2. James declared that faith without good works is not genuine faith.
James 2:14 NAU - "What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?"
James 2:17-18 NAU - "Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself. ¹⁸ But someone may *well* say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

- B. God blesses the death of His righteous ones with
Psalm 116:15 - "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His godly ones."
1. We saw the blessedness of the death of Samuel. Samuel died in peace at a ripe old age – somewhere in his 90's. He was buried at home, most likely in the garden adjacent to his home—perhaps next to his wife. The news of his death spread throughout all Israel, and lamentation was lifted up by all.
1 Samuel 25:1 NAU - "and all Israel gathered together and mourned for him"
1 Samuel 28:3 NAU - "Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him and buried him in Ramah, his own city."
 William Blaikie wrote on the death of Samuel: "What an impressive witness for all that was good and holy. What a living temple, what a Divine epistle, written not in tables of stone, but in the fleshly tables of the heart! What glory and honor had that man's life been to the nation, so uniform, so consistent, so high in tone. What a reproof it must have carried to low and selfish living, what a splendid example it afforded to old and young of the true way and end of a life."¹
 2. When Stephen died we read that Christ stood in his honor
Acts 7:55-56 NAU - "But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;⁵⁶ and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."
 3. We read of Jeroboam's son, Abijah:
1 Kings 14:18 NAU - "All Israel buried him and mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through His servant Ahijah the prophet."

II. But God also knows the deeds of the wicked

- A. Every sin is observed and remembered
1. Jesus spoke of how even careless words are remembered.
Matthew 12:36-37 NAU - "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.³⁷ "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
 2. At the judgment seat of Christ we will give account for our earthly deeds
2 Corinthians 5:10 NAU - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

¹ Blaikie, William Garden. *Expository Lectures on the Book of 1 Samuel*. Birmingham: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2005, Page 379-380.

- B. Jeroboam is eternally known for his wickedness
1. He is known as the king who led Israel into sin. God described his life in **Verse 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--"
 2. Kings were charged for following in his sin. We'll read over and over: **2 Kings 3:3 NAU** - "he clung to the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin; he did not depart from them."
- III. What is your record?
- A. We hear much about epitaphs
1. Athanasius has written upon his headstone, "Contra Mundum"
 2. Joe DiMaggio – "Grace, Dignity and Elegance Personified"
 3. George Washington Carver – "He found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world."
- B. But how does God view you?
1. God knows you as you are
Psalms 1:6 NAU - "For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish."
 2. An honest examination finds endless flaws. But God views us through the lens of Christ.
 3. On our headstone should be written, "Received by grace, forgiven by the mercies of Christ."
 4. Apart from Christ, all of the praise and accolades of men will be of little value. Oh, the glories of being accepted in Christ!