

1  **Three Ways You Can Try to Fool God**

1 Kings 14

2  **Review**

- Kingdom is divided after Solomon's death because of Solomon's sin.
- Northern tribes rebel and go with Jeroboam, one of Solomon's servants.
- Southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin stay loyal to the House of David, because God is keeping his covenant with David.

3 

4  **Review**

- Profile of two kings:
  - Rehoboam: Masculinity out of control.
  - Jeroboam: Compromising worship motivated out of fear.
- Story of the unknown prophet:
  - God pronounces judgment on Jeroboam and makes a prophecy that will not be fulfilled until the birth of Josiah, approximately 300 years later.
  - Unknown prophet judged because he endorsed Israel's sin.

5 

6  **THE STORY**

1 Kings 14

7  **1 Kings 14:1-4**

- *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.*

8  **The Plan**

- Abijah (not to be confused with Abijah, king of Judah – next week!), the youngest son of Jeroboam, falls deathly ill.
- Jeroboam counsels his wife to disguise herself so that she will not be recognized as the king's wife, and go and take gifts to Ahijah, the prophet who originally told Jeroboam he would be king over Israel.
- Ahijah is going blind, because of his age.

9  **1 Kings 14:5-6**

- *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." When she came, she pretended to be another woman. But when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another? For I am charged with unbearable news for you."*

10  **You Can't Fool God**

- You really, really, really can't fool God.
- God reveals the whole plot to the blind prophet.
- Ahijah instantly reveals the queen's true identity and proceeds to pronounce judgment.

11  **1 Kings 14:7-8**

- *Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people and made you leader over my people Israel and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, and yet you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commandments and followed me with all his heart, doing only that which was right in my eyes,*

12 **1 Kings 14:9-10**

- *but 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, 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.*

13 **1 Kings 14:11**

- *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, for the LORD has spoken it."*

14 **The Judgment**

- Because Jeroboam has essentially broken the terms of his kingship with God, God is no longer going to bless his house like he blessed the House of David.
- Instead, he is going to cut off the whole house of Israel and judge him for his idolatry and wickedness.

15 **1 Kings 14:12-13**

- *Arise therefore, go to your house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something pleasing to the LORD, the God of Israel, in the house of Jeroboam.*

16 **The Boy**

- Because the young prince is the only one of Jeroboam's household who is found pleasing to the Lord, He alone will mercifully be allowed to die a natural death.

17 **1 Kings 14:14-16**

- *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. And he will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he sinned and made Israel to sin."*

18 **1 Kings 14:17-18**

- *Then Jeroboam's wife arose and departed and came to Tirzah. And as she came to the threshold of the house, the child died. 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.*

19 **Judgment Begins**

- In the end, everything happens just as God had promised it would: the young prince dies and all of Israel mourns him.
- This is the first sign of the judgments which God will level against the house of Jeroboam, because Jeroboam has led Israel astray from God.

20 **THE LESSON**

Three ways you can (try to) fool God

21 **The Application**

- In the actions and motivation of Jeroboam and his queen, we can see the actions and the motivations that we ourselves take to try to fool God and fool the people around us.
  - Why we try to fool God (and others)
  - Ways we try to fool God (and others)
  - Why it doesn't work
  - What you should be doing instead

22 **Why we try to fool God (and others)**

1. We already know/feel that God/others don't approve of something in our lifestyle
  - God has already pronounced judgment upon the false religion that Jeroboam established
2. We want to get something from God/others that we don't think we could get otherwise
  - In this case, Jeroboam doesn't think that God is going to answer his prayer

23 **Why we try to fool God (and others)**

3. We want the approval of God/others – especially when it is a spiritually prominent individual
  - Jeroboam was specifically seeking out a prophet who he greatly respected – and who he wanted a favorable endorsement from
4. We want the continued approval of someone who has approved of us in the past

24 **Why we try to fool God (and others)**

5. We want others to perceive us as spiritually mature – usually to cover crippling doubt
  - If Jeroboam had thought there was any chance God would have healed his son knowing it was his son, he would not have told his wife to disguise herself

25 **Ways we try to fool God (and others)**

1. Through our appearance (v. 2)
  - The queen disguises her appearance
2. Through our identity – the kind of person that we project ourselves to be (v. 2)
  - The queen tries to fool the prophet into thinking that she is someone else
3. Through our generosity or good works (v. 3)
  - The queen brings gifts of food and honey to the prophet

26 **Why it doesn't work**

- The problem: A focus on external actions, appearances, and activities, instead of inward attitudes.
  1. It doesn't gain favor (v. 10)
  2. Prayers are not within the will of God (v. 12)
  3. False worship is rejected (v. 9)
  4. Judgment is passed (v. 10)

27 **What we should do instead**

- Be like David: Have a relationship instead of a religion (v. 8).
  - Religion is the external actions that we take to try and please God.
  - Religion doesn't save.
  - Religion doesn't give us favor with God.

28 **Hypocrisy Test**

1. Are you trying to cover up for things in your life that you're afraid God or others might not be pleased with?
  - If so, you need to get it right with God – not continue covering your sin
2. Do you try to put on your "Sunday best" for the Pastors or other spiritual leaders?

29 **Hypocrisy Test**

3. Do you value what people think of your spirituality above heavenly rewards?
4. Do you cling to approval that you have received in the past, and seek to earn it again by your actions?
5. Do you dress a certain way to please a certain set of people?

6. Do you use "church words" when you talk to "church people"?

30  **Hypocrisy Test**

7. Do you constantly put yourself down in the hearing of others?

– If you do, you will always have a problem with anger and acceptance.

8. Do you give to be seen of men?

9. Are you a different person on Sunday morning than you are on Monday morning?

10. Are you doing all 9 of the previous things, but fooling yourself into believing that's who you really are?

31  **Be Like David**

- David's passion to build a House for God (Psalm 132:1-5, 1 Chronicles 17)

- David's passion for intimacy with God and God's Word (Psalm 119)

- David's desire to please God with all of his heart (1 Kings 14:8)