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²³ After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places; whoever wished, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places. ²⁴ And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, so as to exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth. 14:1 At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick. ² And Jeroboam said to his wife, "Please arise, and disguise yourself, that they may not recognize you as the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh. Indeed, Ahijah the prophet is there, who told me that I would be king over this people. ³ Also take with you ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him; he will tell you what will become of the child." ⁴ And Jeroboam's wife did so; she arose and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were glazed by reason of his age. ⁵ Now the Lord had said to Ahijah, "Here is the wife of Jeroboam, coming to ask you something about her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus you shall say to her; for it will be, when she comes in, that she will pretend to be another woman." ⁶ And so it was, when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps as she came through the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another person? For I have been sent to you with bad news." ⁷ Go, tell Jeroboam, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you ruler 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 as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes; ⁸ 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—⁹ therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel, bond and free; I will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as one takes away refuse until it is all gone. ¹⁰ The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the Lord has spoken." ¹¹ Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die. ¹² And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the Lord God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

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1. Evil to the core

- a. Even after Jeroboam saw what happened to Solomon & the prophecy of the unnamed prophet along with signs of a withered hand & split altar, Jer. continued his evil ways
 - a1. The warnings, signs, & demonstration of God's power seemed to have little impact on the ruler God had raised to the throne
 - a2. No fear of God
- b. Jer. demonstrated the depth of a fallen nature
 - a1. Jn. 3:19 men love darkness rather than light
 - a2. Ecc. 2 pride overrides all other factors
 - a3. Pv. 14:12 Jer. did what he wanted to do
- c. Jer. restocked his pagan priests in defiance of God
 - a1. He made anyone who wanted to be a priest from any tribe to be a priest
 - a2. Jer. made himself a priest.
- d. Defiance of an all knowing, all powerful, all holy God is irrational & foolish
 - a1. Is. 14 pride blinds men to the truth
 - a2. 1 Jn. 2:15-16 pride drives a man with insatiable motivation to exalt himself
- e. God will not allow evil to go unchecked

2. From hand to heart

- a. If Jer. would not head a hand warning, God upped the ante to a heart warning
 - a1. Abijah, Jer.'s son, became very ill
 - a2. The Lord sent the illness as a warning
- b. Jer. sends his wife out in disguise to inquire of the prophet Ahijah at Shiloh (where the Taber. was)
 - a1. Jer. does not inquire of his own priests
 - a2. Jer. turns to God when he wants truth
 - a3. Ahijah had informed Jer. of his appointment by God to the kingship
 - a4. Disguising Jer.'s wife would not fool the prophet, since God would tell him
- c. Jer. sends his wife with food to pay the prophet

3. Though not seeing, he sees

- a. Being old, Ahijah's eyes were "set" (blind)
 - a1. Probably, covered over with cataracts
 - a2. Same term used of Isaac's eyes
- b. God informed Ahijah that the queen was coming disguised as a different woman
 - a1. Jer. knew that God was against him
 - a2. Jer. had not learned the power of God yet
- c. Ahijah pronounces judgment
 - a1. He knows that the woman is the queen
 - a2. Ahijah states that God had raised up Jer. to be king, taking part of David's heritage
 - a3. God pronounced a curse on Jer.'s house
 - a4. The male descendants would be wiped out via violent deaths, until none were left
 - a5. God would take the life of their son as soon as the queen reached the city gates
- d. God takes the prince for "there is some good in him toward the Lord" (Jer. 1:5 God knows all)
 - a1. God knows the character of a person before that person lives his or her life
 - a2. God knew that unlike his father, the child would listen to the Lord
 - a3. Taking the child removed him from experiencing the curse on Jer.'s house
- e. All of Israel would mourn for him