

What or Who is #1 With You?

1 Kings 14

Take-home truth: Our devotion to God and to His Word is God's #1 concern for our lives.

- **BELIEVERS MUST NOT PLAY GAMES WITH GOD AND HIS WORD.**

At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick. ²And 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. ³Take 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."⁴ 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. ⁵And 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. ⁶But 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. . ."
1 Kings 14:1-6 (English Standard Version)

Two Ways Jeroboam "Plays Games" with God and His Word

- He tries to manipulate God and His Word.
- He approaches God only when he is in trouble.

". . . and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me."
Psalm 50:15 (New International Version)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

- **OUR LACK OF EXCLUSIVE DEVOTION TO GOD, INVITES HIS JEALOUS ANGER.**

"Go, tell Jeroboam that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I raised you up from

among the people and made you a leader over my people Israel. ⁸I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commands and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes. ⁹You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have provoked me to anger and thrust me behind your back. ¹⁰'Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel—slave or free. I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone. . .'" 1 Kings 14:7-10 (NIV)

Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.
Exodus 34:14 (NIV)

God's jealousy = the zeal that arises in God when sin comes against the covenant relationship. Dr. Del Tackett (See Luke 14:26; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3)

- **OUR LACK OF DEVOTION TO GOD AND HIS WORD MAY HAVE A LONG-TERM IMPACT ON OTHERS.**

Then Ahijah said to Jeroboam's wife, "Go on home, and when you enter the city, the child will die. ¹³All Israel will mourn for him and bury him. He is the only member of your family who will have a proper burial, for this child is the only good thing that the LORD, the God of Israel, sees in the entire family of Jeroboam. ¹⁴In addition, the LORD will raise up a king over Israel who will destroy the family of Jeroboam. This will happen today, even now! ¹⁵Then the LORD will shake Israel like a reed whipped about in a stream. He will uproot the people of Israel from this good land that he gave their ancestors and will scatter them beyond the Euphrates River, for they have angered the LORD with the Asherah poles they have set up for worship. ¹⁶He will abandon Israel because Jeroboam sinned and made Israel sin along with him."¹⁷ So Jeroboam's wife returned to Tirzah, and the child died just as she walked through the door of her home. ¹⁸And all Israel buried him and mourned for him, as the LORD had promised through the prophet Ahijah.
1 Kings 14:12-18 (New Living Translation)

(See 1 Kings 15:34; 16:19; 16:25-26; 2 Kings 10:31)

- **GOD IS CLEAR ABOUT WHAT REALLY MATTERS: HOW WE WORSHIP HIM.**

The other events of Jeroboam's reign, his wars and how he ruled, are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel. ²⁰He reigned for twenty-two years and then rested with his fathers. And Nadab his son succeeded him as king. 1 Kings 14:19-20 (NIV)

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26 (NIV)

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. ³But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:2-3 (NIV)

He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, walking in the ways of Jeroboam and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to commit. 1 Kings 15:34 (NIV)

...So he died, ¹⁹because of the sins he had committed, doing evil in the eyes of the LORD and walking in the ways of Jeroboam and in the sin he had committed and had caused Israel to commit. 1 Kings 16:18b-19 (NIV)

But Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD and sinned more than all those before him. ²⁶He walked in all the ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat and in his sin, which he had caused Israel to commit, so that they provoked the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger by their worthless idols. 1 Kings 16:25-26 (NIV)

Yet Jehu was not careful to keep the law of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam, which he had caused Israel to commit. 2 Kings 10:31 (NIV)