

I Kings 14:1 – 18

Before we get into the written Word, I would like to take a few minutes to review some things we have discussed previously. All information comes to the mind by way of the five senses. We will either see something, hear something, feel something, taste or smell something. That sensation will then be communicated to the mind via the system of nerves that are throughout our bodies. The end result is that we KNOW something.

When an individual gets born-again, that new birth spirit is all throughout them. As I often say, there's not a space between your liver and your spleen and that is where the spirit goes. It is all through your entire body. That is why in the epistles, this new birth spirit is referred to as the "inner man" or the "new man". You have perhaps heard it said that it is "eyes behind your eyes" or "ears behind your ears". That spirit, the gift from God, is throughout your entire body.

Now God, who is spirit, can communicate with His gift in you, which is now your spirit. Then your spirit, which is throughout your entire body, can communicate that sensation (information) to your mind using the spiritual nervous system. The end result is that you KNOW. This is how God gives information and instruction via the revelation manifestations.

Now this new birth spirit was not available before God made it available on the Day of Pentecost. Nobody was ever born-again prior to that day. Nobody was born-again in the Old Testament or in the Gospels. However, God could, and did, place spirit upon certain people for specific times and specific tasks before the Day of Pentecost. We refer to this as "spirit upon" those individuals because it was conditional and temporary. This spirit did not carry the full range of rights, privileges and abilities that we have in the new birth. It does however, allow God to communicate information and instructions to these individuals and it gave them the power or ability to carry those instructions out with believing, resulting in miracles and/or healing.

The best way that I know to learn the how of walking by the spirit is to read the records in the Word of God of people who did just that – walking and living by the spirit of God. I don't tell you about my experiences or how I may walk with God

because He may work within you in a different way. He is an individual God. Our experiences are not the norm or standard for truth. The Word of God is truth. Our endeavor is to bring that Word into our lives and experience it. We don't bring our experiences to the Word and try to substantiate our experience. So, with all that being said, we better get to that Word.

I Kings 14:1

When we read the words "At that time", often it can be helpful to our understanding to find out what was going on at that time so that we can better understand what we are reading. So, let's take a few minutes to get some background information for this chapter. Rather than turn this into a 90-minute teaching, I will give you scripture references that you can look up later and simply summarize.

I Kings 11:9 – 13

Solomon had been influenced by his wives to go after other gods. Here, God told Solomon of His displeasure with Solomon for this. He informed Solomon that the kingdom would be taken away from him (all but one tribe) and given to one of Solomon's servants.

I Kings 11:26 – 40

Jeroboam was one of Solomon's servants and had proven ability and had been put into a position of leadership and responsibility. The prophet Ahijah encountered Jeroboam and told him that God was going to be taking 10 tribes away from Solomon and placing them under his (Jeroboam's) leadership. Ahijah also told him why this was being done and when it would be done. Moreover, God, by way of Ahijah, made conditional promises to Jeroboam about how God would bless Jeroboam if he met those conditions.

As a result of all this, Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam. Jeroboam escaped and fled to Egypt until after Solomon had died. I Kings 12:1 – 3 tells that after Solomon died, Rehoboam became the king and Jeroboam came back from Egypt. Jeroboam and others approached Rehoboam and asked him to govern wisely and put less burden on the people. The rest of chapter 12 through verse 20 tells how Rehoboam responded and how the kingdom was split into two with Jeroboam becoming king over the northern 10 tribes just as Ahijah had prophesied.

I Kings 12:25 – 33

Despite God's conditional promise that He would build a sure house for Jeroboam, despite knowing what happened to Solomon for going after other gods, Jeroboam allowed fear to rule in his life and he did what is recorded here. Throughout the rest of I and II Kings, you will read references to the "sin of Jeroboam" and this is what it is referring to.

In I Kings 13, a man of God comes out of Judah and prophesies against the altar which Jeroboam had made. During the course of this encounter, Jeroboam tries to have the man of God arrested and puts forth his hand against him. Jeroboam's hand dries up and he cannot pull it back in again. He asks the man of God to pray for him and he actually is healed by this man of God. This whole encounter is an opportunity for Jeroboam to change the direction of his life and his leadership over Israel.

I Kings 13:33 – 34

Jeroboam decides not to change and thus the stage is set for the events of chapter 14.

I Kings 14:1 – 3

Even in those days before the advent of television and radio – let alone all of the social media and technology of today, the wife of the king would be someone who was known and recognizable. Furthermore, she wouldn't be hopping onto a camel and making this trip by herself. There would be servants, guards and others traveling with her.

I Kings 14:4

Because of his age, Ahijah could not see. Many of us have had our senses become less effective with aging. For myself, there are sounds I can no longer hear. When I am in a situation with background noise, I may have trouble distinguishing words. For years now, I have had to use glasses to read. But aging does not affect the spiritual senses that I mentioned earlier. In this record, Ahijah could not see, but that did not limit his ability to receive information and instructions from God via the revelation manifestations.

I Kings 14:5

God kept Ahijah informed so that Ahijah could be an effective servant of God. Even though he was blind, you could not pull a fast one on Ahijah. He was God's man, walking and living for God. And God made sure that Ahijah knew what was going on.

This verse also illustrates the difference between the manifestation of prophecy and the ministry of a prophet. With the manifestation of prophecy, a believer can bring forth a message from or for God by inspiration. There is no "premeditation" and the words come as one speaks. The message is one of edification, exhortation and comfort. There is no specific guidance or foretelling.

Someone with the ministry of a prophet receives what they are to speak by revelation not inspiration. God tells them what to say. Here, God tells Ahijah ahead of time what he was to say. The message contained specific information that Ahijah could not have known by his five senses.

I Kings 14:6 – 18

And so, understanding the events leading up to "at that time", the prophecy of Ahijah makes complete sense. Everything that Ahijah said would happen, did happen. This is one way you can know a true prophet. So, this is a fantastic record. Even though Ahijah was aged and his eyesight was gone, he was not limited in his walk with and for God.