

## The Ambush of Jeroboam

### **2 Chronicles 13:14 AMPC**

[14] When Judah looked, behold, the battle was before and behind; and they cried to the Lord, and the priests blew the trumpets.

800,000 men of Jeroboam surrounded and ambushed 400,000 men of King Abijah of Judah. Jeroboam represented the ten tribes of Israel from 976 B.C. To 845 B.C. The name Jeroboam means one who is content. He seduced the people of these tribes to compromise their serving God with a convenience Gospel. He told them you don't have to follow all of the Mosaic guidelines for worship. You can go to the nearest house of God for example and not to the places that require sacrifices for traveling. Jeroboam allowed people to be high priest who were not apart of the Aaronic priesthood. He substituted certain kinds of sacrifices for golden calf worship as well. Jeroboam represents the kind of believer today seeking a relationship with God that is convenient where little long suffering is required. People who are content where they are with mediocre living.

### AND NOW JEROBOAM IS READY TO AMBUSH JUDAH

In other words, make no mistake about it. the devil is after Judah in you today. King Abijah stood up and said that even though we are ambushed on every side Judah must live! Like Abijah your Judah must confront violently compromise, convenience and the complacency standing in the way of your destiny. Our text continues in **2 Chronicles 13:14-20 AMPC**.

[14] When Judah looked, behold, the battle was before and behind; and they cried to the Lord, and the priests blew the trumpets. [15] Then the men of Judah gave a shout; and as they shouted, God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. [16] And the Israelites fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hands. [17] And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter, so there fell of Israel 500,000 chosen men. [18] Thus the Israelites were brought low at that time, and the people of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the Lord, the God of their fathers. [19] And Abijah pursued Jeroboam and took some cities from him, Bethel, Jeshanah, and Ephraim (Ephron), with their towns. [20] Jeroboam did not recover strength again in the days of Abijah. And the Lord smote him and he died.

### THE PROBLEMS AND BATTLES OF YOUR JEROBOAM ARE DESIGNED OR ALLOWED BY GOD TO SET YOU AND I UP TO BE DRIVEN TO WORSHIP:

This is why Judah is being surrounded and being ambushed by 400,000 extra men. It was a suicide war that Judah was facing. God in other words will allow you to become terribly lonely or deeply offended. God allows you to battle through chronic sickness and loss of trusted relationships. All to drive you back to an intense personal private focus on transformative worship.

### BUT IN ORDER TO DEFEAT MY JEROBOAMS THROUGH JUDAH (OR MY WORSHIP) I MUST EXAMINE MY ATTITUDE ABOUT WORSHIP:

For example there are three Greek words in the New Testament that define worship. One is the word Sebomai-it means to hold one in awe and reverence. its found ten times in the New Testament. The second word is Latreuo- it means to pay respect to a religious service. its found 21 times in the N.T. But the word i want you to look at is the word Proskuneo - "it means to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand), to fawn or crouch to, homage (do reverence to, adore): worship." It occurs 59 times in the New Testament. Its described as one who falls down to kiss the ground before a king or kiss their feet.

**Proskuneo** is the sharing of your affections with God in a vulnerable and transparent way. It's in to me see Lucifer had precious stones inside of him that was the sacred cherubim in heaven. Stones like Carnelian, emeralds, turquoise, jasper and Boyle and others. Did you know many of these same stones are found in the breastplate of the Jewish high priest Ephod clothing for intimate worship that he wore in the tabernacle? These stones represent you and i focusing on becoming a wholistic vessel of worship from the inside of our charter. In our feelings, our emotions and our attitudes where worship is allowed to change your mood and your character from the inside out. Lucifer lost this intimacy when he became selfish and prideful. This tells me you must fight intensely just to give God your focus with humility, patience in worship or your Jeroboam will ambush you from all sides. This means your attitude must make worshipping Jesus superior to:

1. Your problems
2. Your intellect
3. Your human wisdom and experiences
4. This proskuneo worship takes down jeroboam when you bow to the superiority of Jesus with your human relationship problems
5. And your finances as well
6. But with humility and with focus.

Too often we go through the motions of praise and worship but never really bow to the superiority of Jesus with our worship because our fears or hurts or disappointments become more superior and thus we spend more time dwelling on them.

For example look at **Psalms 18:2**

[2] The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress, and my Deliverer; my God, my keen and firm Strength in Whom I will trust and take refuge, my Shield, and the Horn of my salvation, my High Tower.

There are 8 my's in this verse. We erect defense systems when we experience hurt. Like these 8 my's we dethrone Jesus in order to defend ourselves and we never blame the devil for these experiences. It's always the fault of Donald Trump, the Democratic Party, racism, my relatives or spouse. But never the devil. So whoever you bow your will to and focus your energy and attention to is who you will worship and believe.

**Proverbs 18:19 AMPC**

19] A brother offended is harder to be won over than a strong city, and [their] contentions separate them like the bars of a castle.

If you want dethrone Jeroboam you must take down your defense systems and erect Judah willingly today. This is why Matthew 11:6 says blessed is the man who takes no offense in what I allow him to experience. I have had to personally confront some of my own hidden anger towards God for what he allowed into my life. That is why humility and proskuneo worship is required, to lick a masters hand like a dog because worship brings you to another level of extreme that matches the ambush of Jeroboam! This proskuneo kind of worship is ready to take down your Jeroboam right now.

**Deuteronomy 31:8 AMPC**

[8] It is the Lord Who goes before you; He will [march] with you; He will not fail you or let you go or forsake you; [let there be no cowardice or flinching, but] fear not, neither become broken [in spirit-depressed, dismayed, and unnerved with alarm].

This means as you bow your will and your attitude to this superior God we call Jesus he will defeat the low self esteem you are battling. Be not dismayed at your ambush. Don't let the devil twist the word in you like he did Eve. Our problem with worship is we allow our hurts and disappointments to take us away from the word and this kills our proskuneo worship. But Christ is formed in you through humbling your attitude to the word in proskuneo worship. Proskenuo revives your identity the Devil keeps attacking.

**Romans 16:20 AMPC**

[20] And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) be with you.

Peace can bruise your Jeroboam today. This comes from proskuneo worship. This proskuneo worship takes work. This where we get the word Avodah in Hebrew that correlates with work and worship. Look at somebody and tell them it is going to take work to focus on your Judah. And the more you keep doing this the more you build up stamina against your jeroboam trying to ambush and wear you out.

We have to turn our focus away from jeroboams ambush in order to see God.

**Acts 16:23-26 AMPC**

[23] And when they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. [24] He, having received [so strict a] charge, put them into the inner prison (the dungeon) and fastened their feet in the stocks. [25] But about midnight, as Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the [other] prisoners were listening to them, [26] Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the very foundations of the prison were shaken; and at once all the doors were opened and everyone's shackles were unfastened.

Like Abijah and Paul some of us are surrounded by an ambush of impossibilities! God is saying give me your proskuneo worship and my peace through you will bruise Satan under your feet. I'll never forget what this kind of praise looked like when I lived on 51st and Center and the fire department came to my house while we had a red hot cell meeting of worship going, or when God moved on the Aurora medical office to forgive my wife's \$48,000 doctor bill. This kind of worship puts a perseverance and determination when performing assignments and loving people. It quickens your memory to the word so you can act our courage and God confidence . You receive the Holy Ghost and healing and deliverance through proskuneo worship.

- Turning doubt into faith
- Turning fear into love
- It turns confusion into peace
- It turns sadness into joy

Paul says this tongue talking worship in **1 Cor. 14:2-3** edifies and speaks the hidden mysteries of God to us when we mix faith with proskuneo worship. God wants to reveal new strategies and new systems on how to defeat your Jeroboam's through proskuneo worship.

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