

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



“The Big ‘If’”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): 1 Kings 11-12; Deut. 17:14–20; 1 Kgs. 3:4–10; 8:56–61; 10:26–29; Eccl. 12:13–14; Gal. 6:7

Jeroboam was given one of the most remarkable promises in Scripture. ADONAI told him, *“Then it will be, if you obey everything I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My eyes... then I will be with you, and will establish for you a lasting dynasty, as I did for David”* (1 Kgs. 11:38). That is an incredible promise—but right in the middle of it was one small, enormously consequential word: **if**. Jeroboam had tremendous potential, natural ability, and a promise from God, but the fulfillment of that promise called for trust and obedience.

Solomon had already shown what could happen when wholehearted devotion slowly became divided loyalty and then a hardened heart. Now Jeroboam would face his own choice. Both David and Jeroboam received remarkable promises, but their responses were very different. The decision to trust God’s Word, trust His wisdom, and walk in obedience can make the difference between fulfilled potential and tragic waste. As we look at Jeroboam’s life, we need to ask ourselves where God has already spoken clearly—and whether we are truly willing to trust Him enough to follow.

1. TRUST GOD’S TIMING: *Don’t Rush What God Has Promised*

The LORD’s timing is often slower than we would like. Abraham waited years for Isaac. David was anointed as king but then spent years running for his life before the promise was fulfilled. Twice David had the opportunity to kill Saul and seemingly “help God along,” but he refused. He trusted God to fulfill His promise in His own way and in His own time.

Jeroboam seems to have responded differently. God had made it clear that the kingdom would not be divided during Solomon’s lifetime, yet Jeroboam raised his hand against the king and eventually had to flee to Egypt. We want shortcuts too. We want the microwave instead of the slow cooker. But just because God is not working at the pace we would prefer does not mean He is not working, and adversity does not necessarily mean we have missed His will. When you are tempted to force a door open, manipulate circumstances, or “help God along,” remember: if He gave the promise, He is capable of fulfilling it. **Trust His timing.**

2. TRUST GOD’S PROMISE: *Don’t Let Your Fear Rewrite What God Has Written*

Once Jeroboam became king, he became afraid of losing the very kingdom God had given him. He said in his heart, *“Now the kingdom may return to the house of David”* (1 Kgs. 12:26). God had already spoken, but fear began telling Jeroboam another story. Instead

of allowing God's Word to interpret his circumstances, he allowed his circumstances and fears to reinterpret God's Word.

Jeroboam took his eyes off the Giver and placed them on the gift. He became possessive over something he had only been entrusted to steward. His fear led him to establish golden calves at Bethel and Dan and create a convenient counterfeit form of worship. Fear of failure, fear of people, and fear that God will not come through can push us toward choices we would never otherwise make. So when fear begins asking, "What if God doesn't come through?" go back to what God has actually said. **Don't let your fear rewrite what God has written.**

3. TRUST GOD ENOUGH TO OBEY: *Don't Waste What God Has Promised*

At the heart of Jeroboam's failure was something deeper than impatience or fear: he did not trust God enough to obey Him. The promise was clear: *"If you obey everything I command you and walk in My ways..."* (1 Kgs. 11:38). God was not asking Jeroboam to establish his own dynasty. His responsibility was simply to walk faithfully with the LORD, while God took care of the promise.

That is what biblical faith looks like. Faith is more than believing that God can do something; it means trusting Him enough to do what He says. Jeroboam knew God's promise and knew God's requirements, but convenience and human wisdom eventually became more important than obedience. We can fall into the same trap—knowing Scripture, talking about God's promises, and still negotiating with Him when obedience becomes costly. When God has spoken clearly, choose His wisdom over your own. **Trust Him enough to obey.**

CONCLUSION

Jeroboam's life became one of Scripture's great stories of wasted potential. The same prophet who announced the promise of a lasting dynasty eventually returned with judgment. ADONAI told Jeroboam, *"I raised you up from among the people and made you leader over My people Israel... Yet you have not been like My servant David who kept My commandments and followed Me with all his heart"* (1 Kgs. 14:7–8). Jeroboam had been given the **Big "If,"** but fear replaced trust, human wisdom replaced God's wisdom, and compromise replaced obedience.

Two men. Similar promise. Different result. David was not perfect, but he trusted God enough to wait. Jeroboam tried to force the promise when God was not moving fast enough and protect it when he became afraid of losing it. God has a plan and purpose for your life as well. He may not bring everything to pass as quickly as you would prefer, but that is okay. **Trust His timing. Trust His promise. Trust Him enough to obey.** And above all, don't waste His promise. Put your future back into His hands.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is the word “if” so important in God’s promise to Jeroboam in 1 Kgs. 11:37–38?
2. How did David’s response to waiting for the throne differ from Jeroboam’s response to God’s promise?
3. How can fear cause us to make decisions that actually produce the very outcome we are trying to avoid?
4. What are some modern examples of choosing convenience, security, or human wisdom over obedience to God?
5. Is there an area of your life right now where you are tempted to rush God, doubt His promise, or compromise what He has said? What would trusting Him look like?

CLOSING PRAYER

ADONAI, thank You that You are faithful and that Your Word can be trusted. Forgive us for the times we have become impatient and tried to rush what You were doing, or allowed fear to make us question what You have said. Teach us to wait for You, to trust Your promises, and to recognize that just because we cannot see You working does not mean You are not working.

Give us hearts that continually return to You in faith. Help us keep our eyes on the Giver rather than becoming consumed with the gifts You have entrusted to us. Give us courage to obey when obedience is difficult and patience to wait when Your timing is slower than ours. May we never waste the promises, opportunities, gifts, and calling You have placed before us. Help us place our faith fully in Yeshua, submit to His Lordship, and faithfully walk with You.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.