



STUDY TEXT:

1 Kings 12:25-33 (K)

1 Kings 12:25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel.

26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:

27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.

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³⁰ And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.

³¹ And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

³² And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.

³³ **So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.**

APPLICATION POINT:

When we demonstrate no true measure of confidence or faith in the known promises made in the Word of God, we will quickly succumb to and resort to the sway of the counsel of “the flesh” and fully embrace the crafted ideas of “the world” in an attempt to produce Heavenly results.

FEARFUL PRESUMPTIONS OF DOUBT & UNBELIEF

FOCUS TEXT: And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:

1 Kings 12:26 (K)

As clearly set forth in the present inspired account we are prone to make life altering decisions based on the impromptu, power impressions and false presumptions that randomly arise in our hearts, when we have failed to routinely guard our hearts with the Shield of Faith (the Word of God).

Proverbs 4:23 rightly commands us: **“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”**

And our routine compliance with this divine directive is vitally essential given that our minds are constantly under assault by the ungodly and unbiblical sway of thoughts and ideas that are intentionally designed to cause us to doubt the Word of God.

Again, the inspired writer penned in Proverbs 119:11, **“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”**

Note more closely the latter declarations of this profound admonition: **“that I might not sin against thee.”** And that should be the primary aim of all numbered among every generation of “the redeemed.”

However, when we fail to don or take hold of the Shield of Faith which is able to defend our hearts from the soul piercing darts of doubt and unbelief, then we foolishly make ourselves openly vulnerable to the contrary voice that attempts to externally woo us from “without” and the selfish, seductive sway and arise from “within.”

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And this is precisely the life scene that is presented to us regarding Jeroboam, who by the grace of God was given the grand privilege to reign over the Ten Tribes of the Divided Kingdom.

Now obviously, many will be compelled to pose the question of challenge to Heaven, "If God knew that he was going to lead the people in the wrong direction, why did he give him this vast scope of responsibility?"

And Scripture promptly responds by unapologetically declaring to us in **Daniel 4:35**, "**And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?**"

Too, in **Romans 9:20-21** we are insightfully taught: "**Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?**"

In other words, our Supreme Sovereign justifiably does as He pleases.

And too, we should always remember the timeless surety set forth in **Psalms 103:11**, "**He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.**"

Moreover, let us not forget that up to this point Jeroboam had already experienced a measure of the grand blessings of prophetic fulfillment, as the record of Scripture had promptly emphasized in **1 Kings 12:15b**, namely: "**for the cause was from the Lord, that he might perform his saying, which the Lord spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.**"

That is, this historically climatic event was the direct result of divine intervention, rather than the results of human engineering and exploits.

The Crippling Folly of Fear and Doubt

There was absolutely no valid reason for Jeroboam to embrace the self-derived life scenario of fear and dread that had entered His mind.

The Lord had made it perfectly clear that he would rule over the Ten Northern Tribes, and subsequently orchestrated providential details to bring His Word to pass.

Nevertheless, because his heart was never truly loyal to the Lord; nor anchored to the Word of God, despite having experienced the initial realities conferred upon Him by divine decree, he yet choose to follow the counsel of his own heart.

In essence, he believed that his foresight was superior to that of Heaven, and that his contingency plans were better than just merely believing in God's Word; hence, he made plans and initiated the execution of them without seeking the wisdom of Heaven.

His actions fully mirrored the timeless truths reflected in **Proverbs 16:2** that declared: **“All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.”**

As a result of yielding to the illusions of fearful presumption, rather than refusing the counsel of “the flesh,” Jeroboam had fully committed to and embracing that groundless illusion.

He had convinced himself that his exalted status was only a temporal condition for the moment, and that byway of the unifying influence of worship at the Jerusalem Temple, his people could be persuaded to change their minds about the political arrangement and turn again to submit to the governance of King Rehoboam.

Verse 27 highlighted his misguided rational, **“If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.”**

In other words, he reacted in fear to a future life scenario that would never come to pass. He clearly doubted that the Lord had the

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power to sustain him; and believed that prompt, radical measures were absolutely needed to secure his position on the throne.

Obviously, he did not believe in the superior authority of Heaven to direct and govern the affairs of earth.

And before we point the finger of incrimination at him, it behooves us to examine our own hearts and lives to see if they fully mirror his actions. Because we are prone to profess one thing, while the evidence of our life practice clearly reveals a very different reality.

In the case of Jeroboam, his self-inspired counsel and subsequent defiantly engineered actions revealed that not only did he doubt the promises and power of God; but he also foolishly proudly introduced an evil worship system in complete contradiction to the Law of God.

Thus, he held the established system of divine worship in contempt and arrogantly believed that his substitute was far superior to that which the Lord had given them.

And once he had completed his own plans, as reported in **verse 28** he promptly offered to the people: **“Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”**

Notably, in **Colossians 2:8**, the N.T. Christ follower is warned regarding the introduction of this same ancient, evil approach, as we are solemnly forewarned: **“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”**

And in **Galatians 3:1** we are also alerted: **“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?”**

And finally in **1 John 4:1** we are earnestly commanded: **“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether**

they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

Although he was given ample privilege and opportunity to stand in the grace of glory of God, Jeroboam recklessly elected follow his own path that led to his utter ruin and eternal destruction.