

## *Jeroboam Discussion*

*Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.*

*Why did the LORD give Jeroboam rule of the northern Kingdom?*

*If he had followed the conditions laid down for him, to walk in the ways of the LORD and have a heart like David, might his line have continued?*

*He received political advice to set up 2 alternative worship sites with golden calves in order to prevent the people from worshipping in Jerusalem and eventually returning to Rehoboam's rule. How should he have greeted that advice?*

*A prophet from Judah predicted that a king of Judah, named Josiah, would burn the false prophets on the altar Jeroboam had built. Should that have caused him to repent and tear down the altar?*

*His hand then shriveled up when he ordered the prophet seized and was only healed by the prophet's prayer. If that happened to you, would you likely repent?*

*How can a person obstinately continue in their disobedience in the face of powerful signs?*

*The strange circumstances with the prophet who was ordered to not stay to eat was another sign. What should a spiritually sensitive king have learned from that?*

*The final sign was when the blind prophet identified his wife and her request and said that the son would die and be mourned and honored but no other member of the family would be. Should a rational king at that point be repenting in sack cloth and ashes, pleading for mercy?*

*If a person says, "I can repent any time I want," what is most likely to happen?*

*Did Jeroboam accomplish what the LORD intended by giving him 10 tribes?*

*Could he have done more if he had learned the lesson of obedience.*

*He realized that Solomon's "bending" the Law by allowing his wives to continue their religions led to his downfall. Why did he not apply it to himself?*

*In addition to the consequences to his own family, Jeroboam set the pattern for all the subsequent kings of Israel. Do we sometimes forget that we have an effect on future generations?*

*How should that affect our devotion to the LORD?*

