

## Critical Condition: Grim Diagnosis

December 11, 2011

Vol. 1 Num. 30

1 KINGS 12:25-13:10

### This Week's Core Competency:

**Patience**-I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

*A patient person shows great understanding, but a quick-tempered one promotes foolishness. (Proverbs 14:29)*

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

### Introduction

In 1938 there were no weather satellites, no weather radar, and no offshore weather buoys. The U.S. Weather Bureau (now called National Weather Service) was tracking a powerful storm as it moved from the African coast, over the Bahamas and in the general direction of the Eastern Seaboard. The USWB believed that this hurricane would curve out to sea before reaching the Northeast. Therefore, as it picked up strength, they did not issue any formal warnings.

Christian author E. S. English tells the story of a Long Island man who dreamt of owning a quality barometer. Finally, on a cool autumn day in 1938, he traveled some distance inland and purchased one. On the morning of September 21, 1938, he opened up his new barometer. Imagine his surprise and dismay when he noticed an impossible steady drop in barometric pressure. He did not trust the readings and concluded that he had purchased a faulty barometer. The barometer warnings were clearly consistent with a hurricane. Angered and disgusted, he loaded the barometer into his car and traveled quite a distance inland to return it. While he was gone, the Long Island Express, as it has been called, made landfall. Instead of curving out to sea, the storm moved due north and accelerated in forward speed estimated at 70 mph. In the history of hurricanes, this is the fastest known forward speed recorded. Consequently, most residents were caught off-guard. The wind speeds were high, to be sure. However, it was the stealth of the storm surge followed by unrelenting rain that caused the majority of the devastation. 600 people died.

When the man with the barometer returned home, he found that all that he owned including the house in which he lived, had been swept away. If only he would have trusted the barometer, his actions would have been radically different. Many lives might have been saved.

### This Week

Our passage follows the trajectory of Jeroboam as king. Having returned from Egypt, Jeroboam prepared to rule over the 10 tribes that God gave to him. If only he would have trusted God's promises to him. His actions would have been radically different. Unfortunately, instead of an enduring dynasty, Jeroboam's legacy was infamously connected to Israel's downward spiral into idolatry.

As a Christian, the call for you is to have the sort of trust that makes you willing to put your entire life, come what may, into God's hands. This week, as you study the 1 Kings passage, ask God to reveal areas in your life where you may not be trusting God. Humbly surrender your rights, your dreams, your desires, and your needs to Him. You will find that when you yield, He is utterly faithful!

## ① EXAMINE His Word

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What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

### Read 1 Kings 12:25-13:10

25 Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. From there he went out and built Penuel.

26 Jeroboam said to himself, “The way things are going now, the kingdom might return to the house of David.

27 If these people regularly go to offer sacrifices in the LORD’s temple in Jerusalem, the heart of these people will return to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will murder me and go back to the king of Judah.”

28 So the king sought advice. Then he made two golden calves, and he said to the people, “Going to Jerusalem is too difficult for you. Israel, here is your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt.”

29 He set up one in Bethel, and put the other in Dan.

30 This led to sin; the people walked in procession before one of the calves all the way to Dan.

31 Jeroboam also built shrines on the high places and set up priests from every class of people who were not Levites.

32 Jeroboam made a festival in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the festival in Judah. He offered sacrifices on the altar; he made this offering in Bethel to sacrifice to the calves he had set up. He also stationed the priests in Bethel for the high places he had set up.

33 He offered sacrifices on the altar he had set up in Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month. He chose this month on his own. He made a festival for the Israelites, offered sacrifices on the altar, and burned incense. 1 A man of God came from Judah to Bethel by a revelation from the LORD while Jeroboam was standing beside the altar to burn incense.

2 The man of God cried out against the altar by a revelation from the LORD: “Altar, altar, this is what the LORD says, ‘A son will be born to the house of David, named Josiah, and he will sacrifice on you the priests of the high places who are burning incense on you. Human bones will be burned on you.’ ”

3 He gave a sign that day. He said, “This is the sign that the LORD has spoken: ‘The altar will now be ripped apart, and the ashes that are on it will be poured out.’ ”

4 When the king heard the word that the man of God had cried out against the altar at Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar and said, “Arrest him!” But the hand he stretched out against him withered, and he could not pull it back to himself.

5 The altar was ripped apart, and the ashes poured from the altar, according to the sign that the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

6 Then the king responded to the man of God, “Plead for the favor of the LORD your God and pray for me so that my hand may be restored to me.” So the man of God pleaded for the favor of the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored to him and became as it had been at first.

7 Then the king declared to the man of God, “Come home with me, refresh yourself, and I’ll give you a reward.”

8 But the man of God replied, “If you were to give me half your house, I still wouldn’t go with you, and I wouldn’t eat bread or drink water in this place,

9 for this is what I was commanded by the word of the LORD: ‘You must not eat bread or drink water or go back the way you came.’ ”

10 So he went another way; he did not go back by the way he had come to Bethel.

## ② EXPLORE His Word

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What does God MEAN?

1. Read 1 Kings 11:30-38. Consider the gravity of this passage. What had God promised Jeroboam? What were the conditions for the promise?



8. a) What was Jeroboam's response when, in 13:4, his hand shriveled up? What further insight do you get into the condition of Jeroboam's heart?
- b) God sends warnings or allows trials in the believer's life that are infused with His mercy. Think of a difficult situation, a difficult relationship, or a trial. How are you, like Jeroboam, looking to God to remove the discomfort or pain from a situation? How might you, instead, boldly approach God's throne and ask him to give you his heart, his vision, and his desires for this situation?

## **③ EMBRACE His Word**

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Why does this MATTER to me?

### **Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

In one statement, write what God wants you to KNOW...

In one statement, write how God wants you to FEEL...

In one statement, write what God wants you to DO...

## **Sermon Notes**

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# 30 CORE Competencies

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## 10 Core Beliefs

**Trinity** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Salvation by Grace** *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Authority of the Bible** *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

**Personal God** *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

**Identity in Christ** *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

**Church** *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

**Humanity** *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

**Compassion** *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

**Eternity** *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

**Stewardship** *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

**Biblical Community** *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

**Giving Away My Time** *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Money** *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Faith** *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

**Giving Away My Life** *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

## 10 Core Virtues

**Joy** *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

**Peace** *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

**Faithfulness** *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

**Self-Control** *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

**Humility** *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

**Love** *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

**Patience** *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

**Kindness/Goodness** *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

**Gentleness** *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

**Hope** *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

## 10 Core Practices

**Worship** *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

**Prayer** *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

**Bible Study** *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

**Single-mindedness** *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

**Spiritual Gifts** *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.