

the Scripture. It is not possible for ~~xxxx~~ our finite minds to understand in full detail just how they work together, but we do not solve the problem by trying to explain away any phase of truth that is taught in the Scripture. That applies right here in our passage in the Old Testament. "The Lord said to Jeroboam, "If you will be true to me, if you will follow me, I will give you a dynasty that will endure permanently. I will give you a kingdom that will last." That was a true opportunity which Jeroboam had. It was an offer given to Jeroboam, not an offer which Jeroboam stood up to say, "No, I'm not going to take it." As a rule our choices are not made in that category, the instant way, yes or no. As a rule our mind reaches a certain decision over a period of time. There are certain attitude or we ~~drift~~ carelessly drift into a attitude, but the result is exactly the same as if we ~~xxx~~ categorically said yes or no. Jeroboam was concerned in trying to build a kingdom for himself and to make his own plans to strengthen his kingdom and felt that following God's demands would weaken his hold over his kingdom and consequently ~~xxxx~~ put his desires and purposes first instead of the Lord's will. So Ahijah, the very man who had told Jeroboam he was to receive the kingdom is the very man who said that Jeroboam's house is to be blotted out and that ~~this one~~ <sup>son</sup> ~~son~~ alone is the only one who is going to a peaceful death of all of Jeroboam's projects. The Lord then ~~xx~~ gave two predictions which on the face of them contradicted one another. They do not. The first is a prediction which is conditional. It is entirely sincere. Jeroboam had the full opportunity and he is responsible for his sin. At the same time it is all a part of God's plan and purpose as ordained from the foundation of the world. So we must be very careful that we think seriously on this thing and do not allow people to push us into one extreme or the other into an unBiblical feeling that there is no such thing as a valid human choice which we do have, everyone of us; or on the other hand to feel that God is not ~~sovereign~~ sovereign as is clearly taught in the Scripture. So much then for this brief summary of the ~~xxx~~ reign of Jeroboam as is given us in Kings. Of course, there is nothing about it given us