

Now he does not say when this is going to happen. But at least the suggestion is it will happen soon. In v.4 we find Jeroboam's reaction (reading text)

There was Jeroboam with his arm paralyzed There was the immediate sign and the immediate sign continues in the next verse (v.5) "The altar also was rent and the ashes poured out from the altar . . ." If you've ever done any outdoor cooking you've probably had the experience that I've had once in a while when I'd take rocks and make a little court on two sides and I could put my material across to cook it and get right in the middle when your meal is two-thirds ready and all the sudden rocks breaks right in two with a big noise; you food all falls into the fire and you have to start all over again.

Well, if this was a stone altar which Jeroboam had put up it is altogether probable that that is what happened. That stone altar got heated on one side; it was cold on another part. It heated at irregular speed and broke. It is not a miraculous thing necessarily that it happened. Perhaps it was a miraculous thing that happened; perhaps God cause something to happen contrary to the usual process of nature. But it is just as natural it was a natural event (Would a natural event be called a "sign"? v.3) But the miracle is that it occurred right at that time. God had so directed and planned that right at this time when the prophet gave the prediction it was fulfilled like this and Jeroboam could not draw back his hand, and the altar was torn and the ashes flowed down from it, and Jeroboam immediately repented. You would think that with such evidence he shrely would, woudn't you?

So, ~~YX~~ we find in v. 6, The king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the Lord thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again." Did he really repent, or is this just the common habit of politicians to use religious language. I saw one of the new magazines lately and it spoke about one of the candidates at present and it said he sues the same kind of religious language that so many other men have used, but the thing that scares people is they think that people think he really means it. That shows the bias of the magazine, I don't know whether they are right or not in it, but I think when Jeroboam was in this fix with his arm stuck up there that he really meant it, but not very long. There is a repentance that is not lasting. We can often see that kind of repentance. It is not a repentance unto life. That is the king the king had and for a time he wanted to follow the Lord.

The king asked the man of God ~~that~~ to pray for him that his arm be restored, and the man of God besought the Lord and the king's hand was restored to him again, and became as it was before. The king was so grateful. The king said to the man of God, Come home with me and refresh yourself and I'll give you a reward. What an untackful man this man was. He did not go with the king. He did not take advantage of the wonderful opprortunities before him. Instead of that he said to the king, If you give me half your house I will not go in with you. Neither will I eat bread or drink water in this place, for so it was charged b me by the