

JEROBOAM: A CHANGE AGENT
1 Kings 12: 25-33

Introduction:

1. When Solomon was old, “his wives turned his heart after other gods” (1 Kings 11:4).
2. The Lord was angry and told Solomon, “I will tear your kingdom away from you and give it to your servant” (1 Kings 11:11).
 - a. For the sake of David, God did not do it in Solomon’s day.
 - b. Also for David’s sake, God left one tribe for Solomon’s son.
3. The ten northern tribes rebelled against Rehoboam, Solomon’s foolish son.
 - a. Rehoboam was left with the tribe of Judah.
 - b. Jeroboam, son of Nebat, ruled over the northern tribes of Israel.
4. Jeroboam was afraid for Israel to continue worshipping God at the temple in Jerusalem.
 - a. “The heart of the people will turn back to Rehoboam.”
 - b. “They will kill me and and unite again with Judah.”
5. Jeroboam changed the God-given worship to one that suited him.
 - a. It originated with man, not God.
 - b. It was a counterfeit of the true faith.
 - c. It was a religion of convenience.

Discussion:

- I. JEROBOAM CHANGED THE OBJECT OF WORSHIP.
 - A. Man has always wanted to do “his own thing.”
 1. Satan beguiled Adam and Eve by telling them “You will be like God” if they ate the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:5).

2. He warned Israel they must not make “any graven image” (Exodus 20:4-6).

B. Jeroboam made two golden calves.

1. Israel had made a golden calf at Sinai and incurred God’s anger (Exodus 32).
2. Despite God’s repeated warnings, Israel worshipped the gods of the nations around them rather than the true God.

II. JEROBOAM CHANGED THE PLACE OF WORSHIP.

A. God told Israel He would choose a place for their worship when they settled in the Promised Land (Deut. 12:10,11).

1. The tabernacle was set up at Shiloh (1 Samuel 1:3).
2. The ark was moved to Jerusalem by David (1 Chr. 15).
3. Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem (2 Chr. 3:1,2).

B. Jeroboam set up the golden calves in Dan and Bethel.

1. Dan was in the far north.
2. Bethel was on the southern border with Judah.
3. These places were convenient for the people.

III. JEROBOAM CHANGED THE PRIESTHOOD.

A. God ordained that the priests would come from the tribe of Levi (Exodus 28:1).

1. They would come only from the lineage of Aaron.

“So you shall appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall attend to their priesthood; but the outsider who comes near shall be put to death” (Numbers 3:10).

2. Jesus could not be a high priest on earth for He was from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14).

B. Jeroboam “made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi” (1 Kings 13:31).

- 1. No doubt this seemed broadminded and tolerant.**
- 2. It must have made Jeroboam popular for now almost anyone could become a priest.**

IV. JEROBOAM CHANGED THE FEAST DAY.

A. God had appointed several feasts for Israel (Leviticus 23).

- 1. He also set specific dates for those feasts.**
- 2. The Feast of Tabernacles was to be celebrated beginning on the 15th day of the seventh month (Lev. 23:39-44).**

B. Jeroboam set a feast beginning on the 15th day of the eighth month (1 Kings 12:32).

- 1. It was “like the feast that was in Judah;” not the same, but “like” it or similar to it.**
- 2. False religion often counterfeits the true religion.**

V. JEROBOAM CHANGED THE TRUE FAITH TO A SIMILAR FAITH.

A. God has given a pattern for our worship and service (Exodus 25:9,40; Hebrews 8:5).

- 1. Christ has all authority (Matthew 28:19; Luke 6:46).**
- 2. We must not transgress (go beyond) the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9).**
- 3. We must “contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).**
- 4. We must not add to or take from His Word (Rev. 22:18,19).**

B. Man transgresses God’s pattern at his own peril!

- 1. Nadab and Abihu offered “profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them” and perished as a result (Leviticus 10:1,2).**

2. **Moses struck the rock rather than speak to it as God commanded and was not permitted to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 20:1-12).**
3. **King Saul lost his kingdom because he did not utterly destroy the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:1-23).**
4. **We must learn from the Old Testament examples for we serve the same God today:**

“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11).

VI. MEN HAVE CHANGED THE NEW TESTAMENT FAITH TO A FALSE FAITH.

- A. **The Lord’s church has been exchanged for counterfeit churches which were started by mere men.**
 1. **Jesus built His church (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2).**
 2. **He bought it with His blood (Acts 20:28).**
 3. **He has given the pattern for it in the New Testament.**
 4. **Men have built their own churches according to “the doctrines and commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9).**
- B. **God ordained worship has been turned into entertainment (John 4:24).**
- C. **The plan of salvation taught in the Bible has been replaced by the “doctrines and commandments of men.”**
 1. **Infant baptism is nowhere taught in God’s Word.**
 2. **The so-called “sinners’ prayer” is a recent man-made perversion of God’s plan to save man.**

Conclusion:

1. **Jesus said: “Every plant which my Heavenly Father has not planted shall be rooted up” (Matthew 15:13).**
2. **Obey God’s simple plan of salvation today (Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38).**

