

## THE RELIGION OF JEROBOAM

### 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 11:26-12:33

Background: To punish Solomon for leading the people of Israel into idol worship, God removed ten of the twelve tribes from the rule of his descendants. Jeroboam would be king over the northern territory. To solidify his reign, Jeroboam established an alternative religion that would keep the people from returning to Judah.

#### I. DERIVED OF HUMAN ORIGIN

##### A. 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 12:33

This system of worship “*he had devised in his own heart*”. It was not heaven-sent.

##### B. Matthew 21:23, 25

Religious authority comes either from heaven or from men.

##### C. Proverbs 3:5; 14:12

It is Jehovah in whom each must trust, not oneself. What seems right to man, without consulting God, ends only in destruction.

##### D. Isaiah 55:8-9

It is because God, by His very nature, is supreme that men must yield to His will.

##### E. Colossians 3:17

All religious action must be undertaken in the name, that is by the authority of, Christ Jesus.

#### II. MOTIVATED TO KEEP A FOLLOWING

##### A. 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 12:26-27

It was because he feared losing his kingdom back to Rehoboam that Jeroboam elected to establish this new order. He wanted to keep his people from leaving him.

**B. Acts 20:28-30**

Elders are warned of those who would “draw away the disciples after themselves”.

**C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:1-2**

“Many will follow their destructive ways”, Peter warned.

**D. John 6:66-69**

Though “many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more” Jesus did not alter the message to accommodate them. He only asked His remaining followers if they wanted to leave, too.

**III. APPEALED TO CONVENIENCE**

**A. 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 12:28-29**

Jeroboam offered Bethel and Dan as alternative locations to Jerusalem for worship, suggesting the people would not need to travel so far.

**B. Deuteronomy 12:5-7, 13-14**

God had commanded the Israelites to go to the place where He would put His name, which was later identified as Jerusalem.

**C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:19**

Where liberty, including convenience, is offered, corruption and bondage are often the real result.

**D. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:3-4**

Those unwilling to “endure sound doctrine” will find preaching more suitable to their preferences.

**E. Matthew 7:13-14**

“Difficult is the way”, said the Lord. It’s not about convenience! **Do hard things!**

**F. Mark 8:34-38**

The Lord who left the glory of heaven to wear mortal flesh, who was born in a manger, raised by a carpenter, and murdered by His countrymen knows something of sacrifice and self-denial. He demands the same of His people.

**IV. RESEMBLED THE TRUTH**

**A. 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 12:31-32**

The religious feast ordained by Jeroboam was designed to be *“like the feast that was in Judah”*. This was intended to ease the people into the transition and comfort them in their change.

**B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:13-15**

The devil, who is master of disguise – masquerading as an angel of light, loves the semblance of truth, just not truth itself.

**C. Galatians 1:6-10**

The apostle pronounces damnation upon anyone, including angels and apostles, who would pervert the gospel.

**D. Matthew 7:21**

It is never enough to do some things right. We must go all the way.

**CONCLUSION**

**A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 17:6-18**

The final outcome is that Samaria, the eventual name of Jeroboam’s northern kingdom, was besieged by Assyria and overthrown. The Israelites were taken into exile because of their idolatrous ways.

**B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:13-17**

Because deception will never go away, it is incumbent upon each soul to know the truth of salvation in God’s word.