

The Religion of Jeroboam

1 Kings 12:25-33

Introduction:

- A. Consider the background of the text: 1 Kings 11:26-ff.
- B. Jeroboam was not content to trust God's promise by keeping the law but chose instead to modify it to suit his own purposes – He set up his own system of religion to keep the people following him.
- C. In this lesson we want to discuss the system of religion which Jeroboam set up for his followers as recorded in 1 Kings 12:25-33.

I. The SOURCE of His Religion was HUMAN WISDOM. (1 Kings 12:31-33)

- A. The priests and feast of Jeroboam were ordained by HIS authority – not God's authority.
- B. False religions of today are likewise based upon human wisdom instead of the word of God.
 - 1. Doctrines based on human wisdom would include Faith Only, Once Saved Always Saved, Social Gospel, Mariolatry, Transubstantiation....
- C. Col.3:17– All we say or do must be by the authority of Jesus Christ.
- D. cf.Prov.14:12– *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death."*

II. The MOTIVE was to KEEP FOLLOWERS. (1 Kings 12:26,27)

- A. He was fearful his followers would abandon him if they returned to Jerusalem to obey God.
- B. Much false teaching today is done to gain or keep followers.
 - 1. Acts 20:29,30; 2 Pet.2:1,2.
 - 2. The Social Gospel is designed to use fun and food to gain and keep followers.
 - a. Usually if you gain a follower because of fun or food then you will have to continue to supply fun and food to keep them – when the fun and food stop, they stop as well (cf.Jn.6:26,66).

III. To Sell it, His APPEAL Was to CONVENIENCE. (1 Kings 12:28,29)

- A. He wanted to make worship easier for the people.
- B. Again, false teaching today often appeals to convenience.
 - 1. The "Faith Only" doctrine in essence is an appeal to convenience.
 - 2. The "Once Saved Always Saved" doctrine likewise appeals to convenience.
- C. 2 Tim.4:1-4.

IV. Also, It's APPEARANCE Was SIMILAR TO THE TRUTH. (1 Kings 12:31,32)

- A. He knew the people would not go for a religious system which was completely different from what they were used to so he devised a religious system which was similar to the old system.
- B. Most all, if not all, denominations today have some degree of truth in them.
 - 1. Such groups make their false teaching appear to be according to the Bible.
 - 2. 2 Cor.11:13-15.

V. It's EFFECT Was MORAL DECLINE. (2 Kings 17:9-12,16,17)

- A. Jeroboam started by changing the place of worship, made two golden calves, ordained a different feast, appointed unqualified priests, but they digressed until they completely forsook the Lord.
- B. False religions of our day do the same – 2 Tim.3:13.
- C. God's word is that which will correct and guard against this problem – 2 Tim.3:14-17.

VI. It's RESULT is DESTRUCTION. (2 Kings 17:18)

- A. Ultimately, eternal destruction awaits all false teachers and worshipers – Matt.7:21-23; 13:40-43.