

The Prototype of False Religion

(1 Kings 12:1-33)

- Introduction:
1. This lesson is intended to serve as a warning to the people of God.
 2. 1 Kings 12 demonstrates how, even God's people, can be carried away from God through an accommodating, pleasant religion.
 3. Consider the similarities between the religion of Jeroboam and so many religions today.

I. Jeroboam Changed The Object Of Worship

- A. (Exodus 20:3-5; Deuteronomy 6:13).
- B. Jeroboam made two golden calves (vs. 28).
- C. (Matthew 4:10).

II. Jeroboam Changed The Place Of Worship

- A. (Deuteronomy 12:10-11) Jerusalem.
- B. Jeroboam set up his golden calves in Dan and Bethel (v. 29).
- C. Convenience.

III. Jeroboam Changed The Priesthood

- A. (Numbers 3:5-13).
- B. Jeroboam made priest from among every class of people (v. 31).
- C. Broadminded.

IV. Jeroboam Changed The Feast Day

- A. (Leviticus 23:33-34) 7th month, 15th day.
- B. Jeroboam celebrated his feast day on the 8th month, 15th day (v. 32).

V. Jeroboam Changed True Religion to a Similar Religion

- A. Everything had to be done according to the pattern (Hebrews 8:5).
- B. Jeroboam's religion had its origin in the human heart (vs. 26, 32).
- C. In reality there are only two types of religion:
 1. "I say" -vs- "God says."
 2. "I think" -vs- "It is written."
- D. (Jeremiah 10:23; Isaiah 55:9; Proverbs 16:25).
- E. (Matthew 15:13).

VI. Jeroboam Changed The Honor Due God To Dishonor

- A. (Malachi 1:6).
- B. Jeroboam's religion was instituted for his own selfish ends (vs. 27-29).

VII. Jeroboam Changed The Demands of God

- A. (Matthew 7:13-14).
- B. Jeroboam's religion was accommodating and convenient for the people (v. 28).

- Conclusion:
1. So you see, false religion is not new.
 2. Satan doesn't mind one being religious, so long as he does not obey and follow the Lord.
 3. Don't get caught up in a religious system that doesn't honor God and his word.