

KING JEROBOAM'S SINS

Text: 2 Kings 17:20-23

INTRO: Our text gives a quick overview of the 208 year history of the northern kingdom known as the kingdom of Israel. Ten tribes, under the leadership of Jeroboam, rebelled against Rehoboam the son of Solomon. Jeroboam set up two places of worship to rival Jerusalem, the city which God had chosen. He provided two images of gold to represent "the gods" who brought the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage. He made numerous other innovations as we shall see in a moment. His influence was strongly felt all the way to the end of the history of the kingdom he founded. It was recorded of virtually every king who reigned over that nation that he "walked in the way of Jeroboam... who made Israel to sin." 1 Kings 16:2, 19, 26, 31; 22:52; 2 Kings 10:31; 13:2, 11; 14:24; 15:9, 18, 24, 28.

For the next few minutes, think with me about the sins of Jeroboam that eventually led to the extermination of the kingdom of Israel.

I. JEROBOAM DID WORSHIP BUT HE DID NOT WORSHIP AS GOD DIRECTED. Is one form of worship as good as another? Are all equally good? Dan/Bethel/Jerusalem???

READ 1 KINGS 12:26-33

II. JEROBOAM'S WORSHIP WAS APPEALING TO MOST OF THE ISRAELITES.

A. It appealed to their materialism, vs. 28
B. It appealed to the human desire for something new.
Acts 17:21 new music, new system of interpretation

C. It appealed to their sense of convenience, vs. 28, 29.
READ DEUTERONOMY 14:22-26

D. It appealed to many because it gave them an opportunity to be in places of leadership without having to meet the qualifications set forth in God's law, vs. 31

Levites superior??? Other tribes inferior???

E. Though it was new in many respects, in other ways it

retained enough resemblance to what God had authorized to allow them to salve their conscience and convince themselves it was good enough to get them by, vs. 32-33.

III. JEROBOAM'S INNOVATIONS WERE DEVASTATING TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL.

- A. Most of Israel was taken in by his new approach.
- B. All of Jeroboam's successors continued to walk in his ways
- C. After only 208 years his nation was exterminated because of the sins that Jeroboam had led them into.

IV. LESSONS WE MUST HEED.

- A. It's not enough just to worship, or go to church somewhere. John 4:24
- B. Our worship & service to God must fulfill our spiritual NEEDS rather than our physical desires.
- C. We need to seek what is TRUE rather than what is NEW
- D. Convenience is nice, but not necessary. It was not convenient for Christ to die for us. But it was necessary, none the less.
- E. We must fit into God's plan rather than trying to change God's plan to fit us.
- F. Close to right is not enough. Sort of faithful won't get it.

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 29, 1998

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 20, 1998

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