

The Religion of Jeroboam

1 Kings 12:26-33

Introduction:

- A. Jeroboam became king of most of Israel after death of Solomon.
 - 1. Returned from exile in Egypt to oppose Rehoboam, Solomon's son.
 - 2. Made king by ten tribes – forever dividing Israel.
 - 3. Misled Israel into a new and sinful religious system (vv. 28-30).
- B. Jeroboam's religion had all the marks of all counterfeit religions

Discussion:

I. It Was Human in Origin.

- A. Jeroboam conceived it in his own heart (v. 26).
 - 1. Human heart cannot be trusted to produce acceptable religion (Jer. 10:23; 17:9; 1 Cor. 1:21)
 - 2. Human heart cannot know God without revelation (1 Cor. 2:9-13)
- B. Jeroboam promoted religion for his own purposes – not God's (v. 27).
 - 1. Human religion is centered in someone's pet interest, honor or theory.
 - 2. Human religion does establish God's righteousness (cf. Rom. 10:3).

II. It Was Deceptive Appearance.

- A. Appeared to be for Israel's good (v. 28)
 - 1. Power of man-made religion is often its offer of ease and convenience.
 - a. Faith only
 - b. Unconditional salvation
 - c. No possibility of apostasy.
 - 2. Power of man-made religion is often its appeal to the flesh.
 - a. Sometimes offering sinful "works of the flesh" – paganism.
 - b. Sometimes offering other fleshly incentives – health, wealth, pleasure.
- B. Appeared very much like the original true religion (vv. 31-33)
 - 1. Man made churches are similar to New Testament church in many ways.
 - 2. Man made worship is similar to New Testament worship.

III. It Was Tragic in Consequences.

- A. Turned most of God's people to sin. (v. 30).
 - 1. Ignored the warnings and examples of past history.
 - a. Aaron's calf and the wilderness sins.
 - b. We must profit from God's warnings and church history.(cf. 1 Jno. 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:1-4)
 - 2. Fascination with ornate objects and practices in worship.
- B. Violated God's word inviting God's curse (13:2; cf. Ex. 20:4)
 - 1. God's word cannot be broken without punishment (Rev. 22:18-19).
 - 2. God's word must authorize religion, not our thoughts (Mt. 15:9, 13; Psa. 127:1; Acts 26:9)

Conclusion:

- A. The way to heaven must come from heaven (Jno. 14:6).
- B. The unmodified gospel is the only power to save, obey it.