

A KING GONE BAD (1 Kings 12:25-33)

I. Jeroboam changed the aim of worship (vs. 28).

- A. Jeroboam decided that instead of worshiping the true God of Israel, the One who gave Jeroboam his position, he would introduce new gods to the people.
 - 1. This was the height of arrogance because Jeroboam claimed for these idols that which Jehovah had done.
 - 2. It was the Almighty who had led the people out of Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land.
 - 3. Jeroboam gave to the idols the glory that belonged to God.
- B. God is to be given all the glory He is due.
 - 1. Romans 15:5-6.
 - 2. He is worthy of that glory for the great things He has done (1 Timothy 1:17).
- C. God is glorified in the church (Ephesians 3:21).
 - 1. When He is the true aim of our worship God is glorified.
 - 2. And, He is to be aim of our worship (John 4:24).
- D. The Bible has several examples of the command to aim worship only at God.
 - 1. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:13 to Satan which says we are to worship God only (Matthew 4:10).
 - 2. John was told to worship God when he bowed down to the angel (Revelation 22:8-9).
 - 3. Peter told Cornelius to get up (Acts 10:25-26).
- E. When we put something other than God as the aim of our worship, we sin and are arrogant towards God.
- F. We generally do this when we decide to do as Jeroboam did and do what we want to do and not what God commands.

II. Jeroboam changed the address of worship (vs. 29-30).

- A. In Deuteronomy 12:5-14, Moses told the people that God would choose a place in which the people were to come worship Him.
- B. 1 Kings 5-8 deal with God allowing Solomon to build a place of worship in Jerusalem, thus showing the people that God had chosen Jerusalem as the place to worship Him.
- C. Jeroboam felt it was not a good idea letting the people go to Jerusalem to worship so he erected altars and idols at Bethel and Dan, the southern and northern most points in the land.
- D. The problem was that Jeroboam had no authority to do this.
- E. Today, God is to be glorified in the church (Ephesians 3:21) by true worshipers (John 4:24).
- F. Sadly, many have replaced the place of worship, the church, with many other things.
 - 1. There is the replacement of denominationalism, cultism, mysticism and many other isms.

- 2. Some replace the place of worship with the lake or the ballfield or the bed.
- G. Jesus built one church (Matthew 16:18) and it is in the worship of that church that meets in various congregations that God is to be worshiped.
- H. We have no right to try and offer worship to God anywhere other than where He has authorized it.

III. **Jeroboam changed the attendants of worship (vs. 31).**

- A. Exodus 28:1 tells us that God chose Aaron and his sons to be the priests of the people and Exodus 29:9 tells us that it was to be perpetual, or continual, for his sons.
 - 1. It was to the Levites that God gave the service of the Tabernacle (Numbers 1:50).
 - 2. The Levites belonged to God to do His service (Numbers 8:14).
- B. Jeroboam, to further break with the true worship of God, allowed anyone and everyone but Levites to be priests.
- C. He had no right or authority to do this, just as he had no right or authority to make the other changes he made.
- D. It was the Levites job to see to the spiritual needs of the people.
- E. In the Lord's church, all Christians are priests (Revelation 1:6; 5:10).
 - 1. Only those bathed in the blood of the Great High Priest are allowed to be priests.
 - 2. Jesus is that High Priest (Hebrews 3:1; 4:14).
- F. It is Christians who are allowed to worship God because they are true worshipers.
 - 1. Others offer other kinds of worship.
 - 2. Vain worship or will worship (Mark 7:7; Colossians 2:23).
- G. No one else has the right or authority to offer worship to God because God is not glorified by any other people.

IV. **Jeroboam changed the actions of worship (vs. 32-33).**

- A. God had ordained certain feasts to be held at certain times of the year on specific dates (Leviticus 23).
- B. Notice how the date of Jeroboam's feast was devised (vs. 33).
- C. God tells us that He wants people to worship Him in spirit and in truth.
 - 1. We have mentioned numerous times that this means with the proper frame of mind and the proper actions.
 - 2. Both are equally important.
- D. With the proper aim of worship we can have the right heart because we are seeking to glorify God.
- E. To worship God in truth means according to that which God has devised - there is a proper way to worship God.
 - 1. We find this way in His word.
 - 2. There are five acts of worship laid out for His people in the New Testament.
- F. Any deviation from these five acts comes from the same attitude Jeroboam had - "I will do what I want to do."
- G. We have no authority to change the actions of worship to God.

- H. God is perfectly capable of telling us how He desires for us to worship Him.
 - 1. God never commanded His people to do something and then failed to tell them how He wanted that thing done.
 - 2. He has not failed in telling us how to worship Him.