



# The Scent of Jeroboam



**1 KINGS 12:25-33**

# Background

## “The sin of Jeroboam”

- After Solomon’s death the kingdom split
- Jeroboam was the first king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- To ensure loyalty, he stopped all pilgrimages to Jerusalem
  - Religious observances required by the Law of Moses
- God’s pattern was exchanged for a man-made system
  - *“... but you have done evil above all who were before you and have gone and made for yourself other gods and metal images, provoking Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back...”* (1 Kings 14:9)
- Once in a while, we still get a little whiff of something that smells a lot like Jeroboam...

# The Goal

## To solve a physical problem

- *“they will kill me and return to Rehoboam ” (27)*
  - Worship was not designed to preserve loyalty to an earthly king
  - Jeroboam set out to accomplish something God never intended
- The law was to make them God’s own, holy nation (Ex. 19:5-6)
- Some still try to accomplish missions God never gave His church
  - Secular education, political organizing, end poverty, feed the hungry, etc.
  - Shifts the focus to the here-and-now instead of the hereafter
  - Drives creations of organizations, institutions and practices foreign to the N.T.

# The origin

## Human wisdom

- *“Jeroboam ordained a feast... in the month which he had devised in his own heart” (31-33)*
  - By what authority do you do these things?
    - “he set”, “he put”, “he made”, “Jeroboam instituted”, “he went up”
    - Jesus makes clear there are only 2 sources: from heaven or human origin (Lk. 20:2-4)
  - Where can I read about it in the Bible?

# Baptism

- **Matt. 28:19-20**
- **Mark 16:16**
- **Acts 2:38**
- **Acts 8:12**
- **Acts 8:38**
- **Acts 10:48**
- **Acts 16:33**
- **Acts 22:16**
- **Rom. 6:3**
- **1 Cor. 12:13**
- **Gal. 3:27**
- **Eph. 4:5**
- **Col. 2:12**
- **1 Pet. 3:21**

# Sinner's Prayer

# Singing in New Testament

- **Matt. 26:30**
- **Mark 14:26**
- **Acts 16:25**
- **Rom. 15:9**
- **1 Cor. 14:15**
- **Heb. 2:12**
- **James 5:13**
- **Eph. 5:19**
- **Col. 3:16**

# **Instrumental Music in N.T.**

# The Origin

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    - “he set”, “he put”, “he made”, “Jeroboam instituted”, “he went up”
    - Jesus makes clear there are only 2 sources: from heaven or human origin (Lk. 20:2-4)
  - Where can I read about it in the Bible?
- Same with false practices today
  - *“So then, I **thought to myself** that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.” (Acts 26:9)*
  - *“consulted” or “took counsel” (28) / uninspired men*

# The Appeal

## Easier for the people

- *“it’s just too much”* (28)
  - It’s just too much to be “too different” than others
  - It’s appealing to be “more like” others
    - Meet cultural expectations of Christians and churches
      - Social gospel – provide mankind's basic needs
      - Social justice – provide mankind’s basic rights
- Same appeal today
  - *“For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.”* (Gal. 1:10)
  - 2 Tim. 4:2-4 *“preach the word...”*

# The Appearance

## Smells a lot like truth

- *“like unto the feast that is in Judah”* (32)
  - Mostly the same
  - Believe most of the same things
- Same approach today
  - Make error palatable
  - *“But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. For such men are **false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.** No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also **disguise themselves as servants of righteousness,** whose end will be according to their deeds.”* (2 Cor. 11:12-15)

# The Effect

## Gradual Digression

- “minor” differences at first
  - Different place
  - Different symbol
  - Different dates
  - Different priests
- Big differences later: 2 Kings 17:9-12; 16-17
- Same trajectory today
  - From “starting a new work downtown” to “red-letter Christian”
  - *“But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”* (2 Tim. 3:13)
    - Antidote 14-17

# The Result

## Ultimate Destruction

- Ultimate destruction for Israel – 2 Kings 17:18

- Same result today

21 *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.*

22 *Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’*

23 *And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’*

# The Choice

## Do what God has said:

- *“If you do whatever I command you and walk in obedience to me and do what is right in my eyes by obeying my decrees and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you. I will build you a dynasty as enduring as the one I built for David and will give Israel to you”*  
(1 Kings 11:38)

## Do what we want:

- *“The sin of the house of Jeroboam . . . led to its downfall and to its destruction from the face of the earth”* (1 Kings 13:34)

# The Lesson

- The scent of Jeroboam is as repugnant to God now as it was then
- It smells like:
  - Human Wisdom
  - Wider Acceptance
  - Similar to truth (at least initially)
- Keep you head in your Bible and your nose in the air
- Be cautious when something doesn't smell right
- It may be the scent of Jeroboam



