Jeroboam’s Religion
Doing things his way instead of God’s way

Jeroboam’s Altars
• Shortly after becoming King over Israel Jeroboam set up Golden Calves at Dan and Bethel.
• This was done to prevent the Israelites from going back to Jerusalem to worship
• This led most of the Israelites into sin for Generations to come
Jeroboam’s Altars

• The altar at Bethel was located only 11 miles north of Jerusalem
• This will be the location of the events that we will studying this morning.
• To my knowledge no archeological evidence has been found of the altar or the golden calf that was located at Bethel.
• There is however, some very interesting things found at the city of Dan
Jeroboam and the Man of God

• 1Ki 13:1 ¶ And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

• 2 Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you."
Jeroboam and the Man of God

• 3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."

• 4 So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Arrest him!" Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself.

Jeroboam and the Man of God

• 5 The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

• 6 Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please entreat the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before.
Jeroboam and the Man of God

• 1Ki 13:7 Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward."

• 8 But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place.

• 9 "For so it was commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came.'"

Jeroboam and the Man of God

• 10 So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel.

• We may think to ourselves sometimes “If we could only have miracles today many more would believe”

• This simply is not the case and this story is evidence of it.

• Four distinct miracles were performed here but it did not make these people change their ways
Jeroboam and the Man of God

• The miracles were performed
  • Foretold future events: The splitting of the Altar
  • Jeroboam’s hand is withered
  • Jeroboam’s hand is restored
  • The Altar is split

• In spite of seeing and experiencing these miracles Jeroboam did not change. He continued on in the sin that eventually caused the extermination of his family.

Jeroboam and the Man of God

• 1Ki 13:33 After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places; whoever wished, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

• Miracles alone have never been enough to cause people to obey God
Miracles are not enough

• Jesus made this point in the story of Lazarus and the rich man
• The rich man is in torments and wants Abraham to send Lazarus back to warn his brothers not to come to this terrible place but he gets this response from Abraham
  • Lu 16:31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

Jeroboam’s Worship

• What was the big deal with Jeroboam’s way of worship?
• They were worshipping the god that brought them out of Egypt. Jeroboam said so.
• It wasn’t exactly like the way they did it in Jerusalem but it was very similar
  • They had priest
  • They had an altar
  • They offered animal sacrifices
Jeroboam’s Worship

• Listen to how his worship is described

• 1Ki 12:32 Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made.

• 33 So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.
Jeroboam’s Worship

• Jeroboam’s worship probably had more similarities than differences with the worship in Jerusalem
• Surely God would not be that upset over just a few differences
• Besides weren’t they all just trying to get to the same place
• That “man of God” was just being to strict or “legalistic” in his interpretation of what God had said.

Worship Today

• We hear these same arguments today in defense of all the differences in the religious world today.
• We see and hear so many differences among people who claim to be Christians that we have to wonder can all of them be right.
• Lets see how the differences that Jeroboam instituted work out for him.
Jeroboam’s Punishment

• Not to long after the events we read about at the altar at Bethel, Jeroboam’s son Abijah becomes sick
• Jeroboam sends his wife in disguise to see Ahijah the prophet
• When she arrives to see the prophet he has bad news for her
• Starting in I Kings 14:7

Jeroboam’s Punishment

• 1Ki 14:7 ¶ "Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you ruler over My people Israel,"
• 8 "and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you; and yet you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes;
Jeroboam’s Punishment

- 9 "but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back-

Jeroboam’s Punishment

- 1Ki 14:10 "therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel, bond and free; I will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as one takes away refuse until it is all gone.

- 11 "The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the LORD has spoken!"
Jeroboam’s Punishment

• 12 "Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die.

• 1Ki 14:13 "And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

Jeroboam’s Punishment

• 14 "Moreover the LORD will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam; this is the day. What? Even now!

• 15 "For the LORD will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River, because they have made their wooden images, provoking the LORD to anger.
Jeroboam’s Punishment

• 16 "And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin."

• Sounds like God was displeased with Jeroboam over those few changes he made in the way they worshipped God

• How do we think he will feel if we change his worship today?
  • Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Does Man Change God’s Laws Today?

• When we read verses like the following:

  • 1Ti 2:11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

  • 12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.
    • How do we think God is going to feel about man changing his laws to allow women preachers?

  • Mr 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
Does Man Change God’s Laws Today?

• Jas 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only
  • How do we think God is going to feel about man changing his Law to Faith only?
• Mr 7:7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.
  • How do we think God is going to feel about man changing his Law to include the keeping of Christmas, Easter, Good Friday, Lent and other religious holidays not found in his law?

Does Man Change God’s Laws Today?

• Ac 14:23 So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
  • How do we think God will feel about man changing his law to include Arch Bishops, Cardinals and Popes as well as conventions and councils and other man made authorities that are not found in the Word of God.
• God has never been happy with Humans who changed his way of doing things or the ones who follow them!
Does Man Change God’s Laws Today?

• Listen to what Paul tells the Galatians

• Ga 1:6 ¶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

• 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Does Man Change God’s Laws Today?

• 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

• 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.
Conclusion

• God from the beginning of time has had laws for man to follow
• When man tries to change those laws to fit his own desires it is sin
• The punishment brought on Jeroboam shows us just how God feels about us changing his Law
• Things have not changed under the Law of Christ. God is not pleased with a perversion of or changing of His Law