

“And Jeroboam said in his heart, ‘Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah.’ Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, ‘It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!’” **1 Kings 12:26-28**

“And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. Now this thing became a sin, for the people went *to worship* before the one as far as Dan. He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi. 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.” **1 Kings 12:29-32**

“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.” 1 Kings 12:33

**EVERYTHING HE DID IGNORED AND
CONTRADICTED WHAT GOD SPECIFIED
ABOUT WORSHIP!!
GOD SAID 'IT MATTERED'**

Jeroboam's "Church" **1 Kings 12:25-33**

A danger for the churches of Christ is the overwhelming passion to be like all the other churches, and/or accept them for ourselves. God sent Israelites into the Land of Canaan with: "When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it" **Deuteronomy 12:29-32**

Jeroboam's "Church" 1 Kings 12:25-33

Jeroboam made changes in the worship God had specified: 1) God

FROM **Exodus 20:1-5** TO two calves of gold preaching the error at Sinai when "they said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!'" (**Exodus 32:4**);

2) Place Of Assemblies

FROM Jerusalem (**1 Kings 11:32**) TO Dan & Bethel

3) Specified Levitical Priests

FROM Levites (**Numbers 3:10**) TO unspecified "from every class of people, who were not of the sons Levi;"

Jeroboam's "Church" 1 Kings 12:25-33

4) Communion feast

FROM 15th day of Seventh Month **Leviticus 23:33-34**
TO 15th day of Eighth Month "like the feast that was in Judah;"

5) Offered sacrifices FROM **Deuteronomy 12:10-11;**
Exodus 22:20 TO on "the altar which he had made,"
thus changing the acts of worship God specified;

6) Incense

FROM before the Most Holy Place continually burn
before God (**Exodus 30:7-9, 34-37; 40:26-27**), TO
whatever "he had devised in his own heart"

Jeroboam's "Church" **1 Kings 12:25-33**

Jeroboam: (1) offered them choices that God had not given; (2) ignored God's specific ordinances; (3) appealed to men's weakness: do what you want first; (4) never changed the people's attitude once ruined (2 Kings 17:19-23; 2 Chronicles 10:19**); (5) is held responsible for those who sinned by following his doctrine.**

Fifteen times God identified those who walked in "the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat who made Israel to sin" (1 Kings 14:16; 15:30; 16:31; 2 Kings 3:3; 10:29,31; 13:2,6; 13:11; 14:24; 15:9,18,24,28; 17:22**); & "in the way of Jeroboam" (**1 Kings 16:2,19**).**

Jeroboam's "Church" **1 Kings 12:25-33**

TODAY, there are those who advocate that people can make these same changes to the church of Christ and still be acceptable to God! People have changed the:

1) God. Icons, stained glass windows and statues are the objects of devotion more than "to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen" (1 Timothy 1:17). NO OTHER GOD IS THE SAME;

2) Assembly. "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you" (1 Corinthians 1:10) "For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you" 1 Corinthians 11:18 DIVISIONS ARE NOT THE SAME AS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST;

Jeroboam's "Church" **1 Kings 12:25-33**

3) Specified Priests. People commanded to "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (**Acts 2:38**), became Christians, who "as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (**1 Peter 2:5**); **NO OTHERS ARE PRIESTS;**

4) Communion Feast. "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes" (**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**). It was observed "on the first day of the week" (**Acts 20:7**). No other Elements, Purpose or Day! **NO OTHER COMMUNION IS THE SAME;**

Jeroboam's "Church" **1 Kings 12:25-33**

5) Offered Worship Sacrifices. Christians should "continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (**Hebrews 13:15-16**).

These sacrifices in His name include: singing (**Colossians 3:16**), giving (**1 Corinthians 16:2**), preaching the word (**2 Timothy 4:1-2**).

None but priests/Christians can offer acceptable sacrifices.

NOTHING DONE AS ENTERTAINMENT, HYPOCRISY, OR EXTERNAL MESSAGES. NO OTHER WORSHIP IS THE SAME;

6) Incense. Christians offer prayers "always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (**Ephesians 6:18**), and "without ceasing" (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**), go into Heaven as "golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints" (**Revelation 5:8**). None but Christians can offer acceptable prayers. **NO OTHER INCENSE IS THE SAME;**

Jeroboam's "Church" **1 Kings 12:25-33**

Paul wrote to the Corinthian church of Christ: "what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore 'put away from yourselves the evil person' [**Deuteronomy 17:7**]" (**1 Corinthians 5:12-13**). There are those who are "outside" because they have not yet accepted the rules to come "inside." God will deal with them (**2 Thessalonians 1:3-10**). Those of us who are "inside" must not, and cannot, apply our rules to justify those who are "outside." In other words, the Lord adds the saved to the church (**Acts 2:38, 47**), and only "Jeroboams" will make exception to His rules.