



Jeroboam

Rebellion

Followed Fear Instead of Faith

Following the division of the kingdom Jeroboam believed he had a problem. He knew the people wanted to continue worshiping the LORD in Jerusalem and he feared the people would return to Judah and reunite as a nation. Because of this Jeroboam established a new religion to keep them in the land. His faith was lacking. God promised him the kingdom and he failed to trust the LORD in the matter.

Jealousy

Jeroboam was a jealous man and this resulted in a rebellious attitude.

- Jealous of the people.
- Jealous of his position.
- Jealous of his power.
- Jealous of his popularity.

Beware of jealousy. Trust in the LORD and be content with what He has blessed you with.

Lessons for Leaders

Jeroboam did what he believed to be right and failed. His rebellious heart led him away from God and into trouble. Consider the king's ways.

Pleased people - he made worship comfortable and convenient instead of correct. The king was more interested in the people's acceptance than he was in pleasing the LORD.

Protected himself - he appointed priests loyal to him and made sure the people did not return to Judah. His selfishness would lead to ruin.

Powerful nation - Israel became independent from Judah. Unfortunately they also separated from the LORD.

Powerless religion - they were active in religion but they failed to honor the LORD. God did not approve of their religion. He did not accept the man-made worship and was not appeased by their worldly works. Their new religion was filled with formality but lacking in faith.

Priests departed - the men called to serve the LORD left Israel for Judah. Meaning, the teaching of God's law no longer occurred in the land. Whenever this occurs, prosperity will give way to problems.

Problems in the land - Jeroboam burdened the people far more than Solomon did or Rehoboam planned. He led them into sin and eventually into bondage. It became evident that personal gain was more important to him than the welfare of the people.

Prosperity - as far as the world was concerned he was successful, the people remained and the nation divided. Spiritually he was a failure and his nation was corrupted from within and weakened.

Product - the result of his rebellious heart was a defeated nation and a tarnished testimony. He will be forever known as the man that led Israel into sin.

Instead of following the LORD, Jeroboam chose to go his own direction. The best guide in life is God. Walk with Him, follow after His ways, and you'll not go astray.

Spiritual Matters

Jeroboam was dangerous because he led people away from the LORD. Modern leaders are often guilty of Jeroboam's conduct.

Comfort - he made it easy for people to leave the LORD.

Convenience - he gave them an alternative to worshipping the LORD in Jerusalem.

Conceit - he played upon their egos and gave them what they believed they deserved, their own places of worship.

Cunning - he did not present a new religion, just altered the one they already had.

Control - he appointed new priests, those that would be loyal to him.

Conduct - he acted purely political, it was not about the people but personal power. All was done to keep the people under his dominion.

Corruption - he turned them from the LORD. Truth was replaced with error and the nation suffered.

Jeroboam opposed the LORD and went his own way. Test leaders with the Word of God to find if they are walking with God or going the way of the world.