Jerroboam’s Counterfeit Religion
1 Kings 12:25-33

Introduction:
A. Shortly after Solomon died, Israel divided into two kingdoms.
   1. Rehoboam succeeds Solomon, listens to bad advice, provokes rebellion.
   2. Jeroboam, a rebel exiled to Egypt under Solomon, became leader of ten northern tribes.
   3. Jeroboam set up a new religion in the North to keep Israelite away from Jerusalem (v. 27).
B. Jeroboam’s religion had the characteristics typical of most counterfeit religions.

Discussion:
I. Jeroboam’s Religion Was Subtle.
   A. Counterfeit religion is usually subtle in its propaganda.
      1. Jeroboam promoted calves as “gods which brought you out of Egypt.” (cf. Ex. 32:4)
      2. Promoters of modern religion promote it as old-time religion adapted for new times.
   B. Counterfeit religion is usually similar in its features.
      1. Priests, altar, a feast “like the one in Judah” - preachers, services, Bible, etc. like N.T. religion.
      2. Differences that made a difference — similarity is not identity:
         a. Jeroboam’s religion had different object, place, priest (v. 31), day (v. 33).
         b. Modern religion has different worship, church structure, church work.

II. Jeroboam’s Religion Was Sensational.
   A. False religion characterized by sensationalism and emotionalism.
      1. Israel could see and feel Jeroboam’s gods — Unlike the Invisible Jehovah.
      2. Conversion, preaching, worship, assurance based more on feelings than reason.
   B. True religion is characterized by reasoning from the Scriptures. (Acts 17:2; 18:4; 18:19; 24:25)
      1. Feelings are necessary part of religion, but reason must control feelings — not vice versa.
      2. First principles, worship, preaching, etc. should be with feeling, but from a converted mind.

III. Jeroboam’s Religion Was Convenient. (“It is too much...” v. 28)
   A. It is often more convenient to follow denominational teaching.
      1. Salvation and church membership: Church of choice, Faith only (Jas. 2:24), sprinkling (Col. 2:12).
      2. Worship: Listen to organ or choir (cf. Col 3:16), Lord’s supper whenever (cf. Acts 20:7)
   B. It is often more convenient for Christians to sin than to do right.
      1. More convenient to conform than to transform. (Rom. 12:2)
      2. More convenient not to: Assemble. (Heb. 10:25), teach. (Matt. 28:19), visit. (Jas. 1:27; Matt. 25),
         study (2 Tim. 2:15), pray (1 Thess. 5:17) give (1 Cor. 16:1,2).

Conclusion:
A. Jeroboam’s religion was also more popular among Jews (10 to 2) — why?
B. Christians often want church to be as big and popular as denominational neighbors — could be.
C. Christians need to look to see what makes them so — ask should we do what it takes.