The Religion of Jeroboam
1 Kings 12:26-33

Introduction:
A. Jeroboam became king of most of Israel after death of Solomon.
   1. Returned from exile in Egypt to oppose Rehoboam, Solomon’s son.
   3. Misled Israel into a new and sinful religious system (vv. 28-30).
B. Jeroboam’s religion had all the marks of all counterfeit religions

Discussion:
I. It Was Human in Origin.
   A. Jeroboam conceived it in his own heart (v. 26).
      1. Human heart cannot be trusted to produce acceptable religion (Jer. 10:23; 17:9; 1 Cor. 1:21)
      2. Human heart cannot know God without revelation (1 Cor. 2:9-13)
   B. Jeroboam promoted religion for his own purposes – not God’s (v. 27).
      1. Human religion is centered in someone’s pet interest, honor or theory.
      2. Human religion does establish God’s righteousness (cf. Rom. 10:3).

II. It Was Deceptive Appearance.
   A. Appeared to be for Israel’s good (v. 28)
      1. Power of man-made religion is often its offer of ease and convenience.
         a. Faith only
         b. Unconditional salvation
         c. No possibility of apostasy.
      2. Power of man-made religion is often its appeal to the flesh.
         a. Sometimes offering sinful “works of the flesh” – paganism.
         b. Sometimes offering other fleshly incentives – health, wealth, pleasure.
   B. Appeared very much like the original true religion (vv. 31-33)
      1. Man made churches are similar to New Testament church in many ways.
      2. Man made worship is similar to New Testament worship.

III. It Was Tragic in Consequences.
   A. Turned most of God’s people to sin. (v. 30).
      1. Ignored the warnings and examples of past history.
         a. Aaron’s calf and the wilderness sins.
         b. We must profit from God’s warnings and church history.(cf. 1 Jno. 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:1-4)
      2. Fascination with ornate objects and practices in worship.
   B. Violated God’s word inviting God’s curse (13:2; cf. Ex. 20:4)
      1. God’s word cannot be broken without punishment (Rev. 22:18-19).
      2. God’s word must authorize religion, not our thoughts (Mt. 15:9, 13; Psa. 127:1; Acts 26:9)

Conclusion:
A. The way to heaven must come from heaven (Jno. 14:6).
B. The unmodified gospel is the only power to save, obey it.