

IT IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO GO UP TO JERUSALEM 1 KINGS 12

Text: 1 Kings 12:28

(1 Kings 12:28) "Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."

Introduction:

In the text Rehoboam takes the kingdom after his father Solomon's death. Being a young man he goes to the old men to get their advice in running things. He also went to the young men to get their advice. The Bible tells us that he forsook the counsel of the wise men of the city and took the advice of the young men. It ended up causing a split in his nation.

That is where Jeroboam comes on the scene. Israel after rebelling against Rehoboam calls on Jeroboam to become their king. Not long after becoming their king Jeroboam begins to compromise.

Jeroboam compromised in the area of worship. Instead of doing things the way that God had

instructed things to be done he in turn began to do things out of convenience.

Notice:

1. WICKEDNESS INVOLVED

(1 Kings 12:26-33) "And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: {27} If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. {28} Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. {29} And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. {30} And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. {31} And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. {32} And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. {33} So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised

of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense."

A. Proposed Wickedness (vss 28-30)

(1 Kings 12:28-30) "Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. {29} And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. {30} And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan."

1. Wrong counsel regarding worship.

2. Wrong motive for worship.

B. Prepared Wickedness (vss 28-29)

(1 Kings 12:28-29) "Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. {29} And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan."

1. He made them

2. He set them.

B. Wickedness Practiced (vss 30)

(1 Kings 12:30) "And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan."

2. WARNING SOUNDED (1 KINGS 13:1-5)

(1 Kings 13:1-5) "And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. {2} And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. {3} And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out. {4} And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. {5} The altar also was rent, 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."

A. The message. (vss 1-3)

(1 Kings 13:1-3) "And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. {2} And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. {3} And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out."

B. The madness. (vss 4)

(1 Kings 13:4) "And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him."

C. The mistake. (vss 4-5)

(1 Kings 13:4-5) "And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. {5} The altar also was rent, 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."

D. The miracle. (vss 6)

(1 Kings 13:6) "And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Entreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before."

3. WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCE (VSS 7-19)

(1 Kings 13:7-19) "And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward. {8} And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: {9} For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor

drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest. {10} So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel. {11} Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father. {12} And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah. {13} And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon, {14} And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am. {15} Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread. {16} And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place: {17} For it was said to me by the word of the LORD, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest. {18} He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him. {19} So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water."

- A. Did not practice what he was preaching.
- B. Did a full circle.

1. Was disobedient to God's commands like Jeroboam.
2. Was given bad advice.
3. Took the bad advice.

4. WRATH OF GOD (VSS 20-22)

(1 Kings 13:20-24) "And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back: {21} And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the LORD, and hast not kept the commandment which the LORD thy God commanded thee, {22} But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the LORD did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.

A. The slightest compromise is rebellion against God.

B. God demands obedience.

(1 Samuel 15:22) "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is

better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

5. WASTED LIFE (VSS 23-34)

(1 Kings 13:23-34) "And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back. {24} And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase. {25} And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. {26} And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the LORD: therefore the LORD hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake unto him. {27} And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him. {28} And he went and found his carcase cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcase: the lion had not eaten the carcase, nor torn the ass. {29} And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him. {30} And he laid his carcase in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother! {31}

And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones: {32} For the saying which he cried by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass. {33} After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places. {34} And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth."

A. Disobedience leads to destruction

B. Destruction brings about loss

1. Loss of life (vss 24)
2. Loss of ministry (vss 25)
3. Loss of testimony (vss 25)
4. Loss of effect. (vss 33)

(1 Kings 13:33) "After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he

consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places."

Close:

There is price tag on disobedience and compromise. That price tag is an expensive one. Are you willing to pay it?