

SERIES: PROPHETS, PRIESTS AND KINGS

Godly leadership in the house of God and the heart of the believer

TITLE: In God we Trust

TEXT: 1 Kings 12-22

2 Kings 17:13–15 (NLT)

Again and again the LORD had sent his prophets and seers to warn both Israel and Judah: "Turn from all your evil ways. Obey my commands and decrees—the entire law that I commanded your ancestors to obey, and that I gave you through my servants the prophets."

But the Israelites would not listen. They were as stubborn as their ancestors who had refused to believe in the LORD their God. They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their ancestors, and they despised all his warnings. They worshiped worthless idols, so they became worthless themselves. They followed the example of the nations around them, disobeying the LORD's command not to imitate them.

2 Kings 17:18, 20 (NLT)

Because the Lord was very angry with Israel, he swept them away from his presence. He punished them by handing them over to their attackers until he had banished Israel from his presence.

Dynasties

- Five dynasties with 19 kings whose reigns ranged between 7 days and 41 years. 6 of them two years or less.
- The time frame of the Northern Kingdom was 930BC – 722BC.
- All of the kings of the North: Israel were evil and the phrase that is mentioned over and over in regard to them were:
 - *So he died, because of the sins he had committed, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord and following the ways of Jeroboam and committing the same sin Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit. 1 Kings 15:34*
 - *"You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made other gods for yourself and have made me furious with your gold calves. And since you have turned your back on me." 1 Kings 14:9*

List of the Kings of Israel								
Kings of Israel	Dyn	Faith	Years	Date *	Books of Kings	Chr	Prophet	
Jeroboam I	Yes	Evil	22	930-909 BC	I Kings 12:19	II Chr 10:2	Ahijah	Reigned in Israel for 22 years. Death: natural causes.
Nadab		Evil	2	909-908 BC	I Kings 15:25			Reigned in Israel for 2 years. Death: Killed by Bassha, son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar, along with his whole family.
Baasha	Yes	Evil	24	908-885 BC	I Kings 15:27			Reigned over Israel in Tizrah for 24 years. Death: natural causes.
Elah		Evil	2	884-884 BC	I Kings 16:8			Reigned over Israel in Tizrah for 2 years. Death: Zimri, one of his officials, got him drunk and killed him at his house in Azra.
Zimri		Evil	7 Days	884 BC	I Kings 16:9			Reigned over Israel in Tizrah for 7 days. Death: He set his palace on fire when Omri and all the Israelites with him withdrew from Gebbethon and laid siege to Tizrah.
Omri	Yes	Evil	12	884-881 BC	I Kings 16:17			Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 12 years. Death: Natural causes.
Ahab		Evil	22	873-852 BC	I Kings 16:29	II Chr 18:1	Micaiah School Elijah	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 22 years. Death: Shot by an archer during the battle at Ramoth Gilead. He died upon his arrival on Samaria.
Ahaziah		Evil	2	852-851 BC	I Kings 22:40			Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 2 years. Death: He fell through the lattice

								of his upper room and injured himself. Elijah the prophet told him he would never leave his bed and would die on it.
Jehoram		Evil	12	851-841 BC	II Kings 3:1	II Chr 22:7		Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 11 years. Death: Killed by Jehu, the next king of Israel.
Jehu	Yes	Evil	28	841-814 BC	II Kings 9:2	II Chr 22:7	Elisha	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 28 years. Death: natural casues.
Jehoahaz		Evil	17	814-798 BC	II Kings 13:1			Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 17 years. Death: natural casues.
Joash		Evil	16	798-782 BC	II Kings 13:10	II Chr 25:7		Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 16 years. Death: natural casues.
Jeroboam II		Evil	41	782-745 BC	II Kings 14:16		Amos	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 41 years. Death: natural casues.
Zachariah		Evil	6 Months	745 BC	II Kings 14:29		Jonah	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 6 months. Death: Shallum son of Jabesh killed him in front of the people and succeeded as king.
Shallum		Evil	1 Month	745 BC	II Kings 15:10			Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 1 month. Death: Menahem son of Gadi attacked Shallum and killed him.
Menahem	Yes	Evil	10	745-736 BC	II Kings 15:14			Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 10 years. Death: natural causes.
Pekahiah		Evil	2	736-735 BC	II Kings 15:22			Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 2 years. Death: Pekah son of Remaliah, one of the chief officers, took 50 men with him and assassinated the king in his

								palace at Samaria.
Pekah		Evil	20	735-732 BC	II Kings 15:25			Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 20 years. Death: Hoshea son of Elah conspired against him and killed him.
Hoshea		Evil	9	732-724 BC	II Kings 15:30		Hosea	Reigned over Israel in Samaria for 9 years. Death: King Shalmanser attacked and captured Samaria. He charged Hoshea with treason and put him in prison. He then exiled the Israelites to Assyria.
Assyrian Captivity				722 BC	II Kings 17:1			
The Kings of Israel reigned from 930 BC - 722 BC (208 years) and were all evil								
*Exact dates are uncertain and may vary								

They followed in the sin of Jeroboam.

1 Kings 15:34

He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, following the ways of Jeroboam and committing the same sin Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit.

1 Kings 12:26-28

And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David...

1 Kings 14:9

...but you have done evil above all who were before you and have gone and made for yourself other gods and metal images, provoking me to anger, and have cast me behind your back, ...

This passage describes the act which is so often referred to with horror, in the books of Kings and Chronicles, as "the sin of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat."

To an irreligious man like himself, nothing would appear more natural or politic than this conduct. He had been driven into Egypt by Solomon, had there married Pharaoh's daughter, and become familiar with the worship of Apis and Mnevis.

Now he had returned, and found himself the ruler of the ten tribes, the first king of the separate "kingdom of Israel."

Here is the sin that would define him and every king of Israel which would bring judgment on all the people.

Recognizing as he did the religious tendencies and memories of his people, he saw that the national assemblies for worship in the temple at Jerusalem would, sooner or later, unite the tribes again under one king. Hence his action.

Look at his conduct....

(1) from the earthly perspective as seen from the people.

(2) from the heavenly perspective as seen by God.

We see that his policy was at once received yet rejected.

I. NATIONAL POLICIES THAT WERE RECEIVED BY THE PEOPLE.

(1) NATIONAL POLICY that called for tribal independence.

- a. In effect he said, "Why should you men of Ephraim be dependent for your worship on Judah?
 - i. Why should your tribute go to support their temple?
 - ii. Let us have a place of our own."
 - iii. This argument has been repeated by demagogues in every land and age.
 - iv. Class has been set against class, nation against nation, Church against Church, by this spirit.
 - v. Show some of the advantages of recognizing our interdependence.

(2) NATIONAL POLICY that called for self-indulgence.

- a. *"It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem."*
 - i. Point out instances in which religious teachers have condescended to such base suggestions as this, e.g., the theology that declares self-conquest nothing, that makes faith the executioner, instead of the sustainer of morality; the teaching that will offer "indulgences" to those of sinful habit; the worship that pleases a sensuous taste, but demands no intelligent thought, etc.
 - ii. Your faith is sustained by following the state's position.

(3) NATIONAL POLICY that called upon former memories.

- a. He made Shechem his capital, a place associated with Abraham and Jacob, and afterwards assigned to the Levites, and made a free city.
- b. He erected one of the calves at Bethel, a holy place on the borders of Benjamin and Ephraim (see Genesis 32.).
- c. No doubt his design was to conciliate those who were proud of past history.
- d. Let's call out to Teddy Roosevelt or to Franklin Delano Roosevelt

(4) NATIONAL POLICY that would deceive the devout.

- a. He pretended that it was the old worship reestablished; that Jehovah was really represented by the calves: "These be thy gods (the old gods) that brought thee out of the land of Egypt."
- b. Not the first or last time in which the prince of darkness has appeared as an angel of light Shrewd as was the policy, it was not perfectly successful even during his reign.
- c. The best people emigrated to Judah (like the Huguenots to England), to enrich another kingdom by work and wealth; and the prophets and many of the priests were roused to hostility.
- d. Even had it succeeded, however, such policy deserved to be branded with infamy. Principle must never be sacrificed to expediency. Success never condones wrong doing with God.

II. THE NATIONAL POLICIES WERE REJECTED BY GOD.

1. They revealed utter distrust of God.

- a. See the promise that had been given him (1 Kings 11:38): "I will build thee a sure house." He could not believe it.
- b. He would trust his own skill rather than God's favor.
 - i. So had it been with Saul and Solomon.
- c. The path of simple obedience is straight and narrow, and few there be that find it." "
- d. Do My will and trust Me," is the lesson of life, but we are slow to learn it.
- e. Many professing Christians consider religion inappropriate to business competition and to political movements. In this they resemble the son of Nebat.

2. They violated the first two commandments: the Decalogue.

- a. If the first command was not actually broken: no other gods before me.
- b. The second was: no graven image.
- c. Had these calves merely been the outward symbols of Jehovah, they were amongst the forbidden "images."
 - i. Jeroboam knew this.

- ii. He remembered the calf Aaron made, for his words were an echo of those of the first high priest.
 1. Aaron collected the golden ornaments of the people and fashioned the gold into the shape of a calf or a small bull. The image was immediately hailed by the people as a representation of the God who had brought Israel out of Egypt.
 2. the Lord announced that He would no longer abide amid this "stiff-necked people."
 3. The bull had an important role in the art and religious texts of the ancient Near East. The storm-god *Hadad is frequently represented standing on a bull. they were regarded as seats or pedestals upon which the Lord was thought to stand invisible to human eyes. Like the cherubim over the ark of the covenant where God's glory would sit, and the people could not have access to it.... The calves represented a place where the people could come and have access to god who would land on the calves and they would kiss the statues.
 4. God had them melt that gold into dust and they had to swallow it!
 5. They traded the glory of god for what they wanted to make – their own accessible god.
 6. I see the church of Jesus moving away from obedience and building for themselves a god unto themselves which is accessible to their wishes.
 7. Pick and choose which text you will abide by and which you will disregard because it does not fit YOUR positions.
- iii. He knew that only the intercession of Moses then saved the people from destruction, yet again he defiantly disobeyed.
- d. Show the peril of allowing images, crucifixes, banners, the elements in the sacrament, etc., to take a false position in Christian worship.
- e. Even if the initiated worship God through these, they break (in spirit) the second command; while the more ignorant are with equal certainty led to the violation of the first.
- f. Capitalism or Socialism?

3. It was a religious system made by men and not by God

- (1) The people worshipped in the place God had not chosen, as He had chosen the temple.
- (2) They had no ark of the covenant on which rested, and because of which was promised, the real presence of God.
- (3) The priests were chosen by the king in opposition to the ordinance of God (*ex universo populo.*)
- (4) The national feast of tabernacles was changed from the seventh month (Leviticus 23:34) to the eighth, not only because the harvest was later in the north than in the south of Judah, but to

widen insidiously the breach between the kingdoms. So in all ages and in all spheres one sin leads to another. It would be better to die as Abigail (1 Kings 14:13) than to reign as Jeroboam. - A.R.

The leaders made a choice.

The people followed.

They were all condemned.

Only a few voices calling out and yet were unheard.

R

Good – Israel embassy to Jerusalem / no funding of abortions / stop fetal stem cell harvesting

Bad - Pride / arrogance / mocking and disregarding demeanor, sexual sin

D

Good – social justice programs, rights for all people

Bad – abortion, fetal stem cells as commodities, embracing ungodly lifestyles as norm

From Politic to Personal

Where do you place your trust?

- The government?
- A politic party?
- An economic system?
- The work of your own hands?

What other gods have you lifted above the ONE God?

- Souse
- Kids
- Self
- God will tear it down and it will be shoved down your throat

What religious system have you built for yourself that looks good to you but it is not of the Lord?

- I do not need to go to church
- Compassion for people is more important than Redemption of people
- Kindness is better than god's truth

CHALLENGE

- Tear down any thing that has been lifted higher than your relationship with God
- Recognize any religious position that is not in agreement with God's Word and walk away from it.
- Return to biblical worship that God has created
- Place your complete trust in God.