

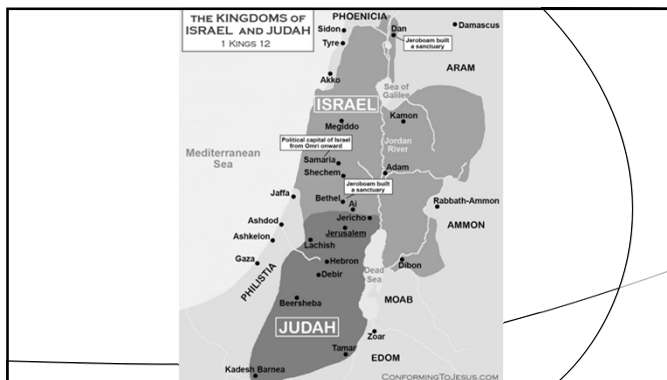


1

Where does false religion come from?  
*(is there such a thing?)*

False religion is always “man-made” religion

2



3

### Jeroboam (first king of “Israel”)

<sup>37</sup> I will take you, and you shall reign over whatever you desire, and you shall be king over Israel. <sup>38</sup> Then it will be, that if you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight by observing My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.

(1 Kings 11:37-38)

4

<sup>25</sup> Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel. <sup>26</sup> Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will return to the house of David. <sup>27</sup> If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will return to their lord, *even* to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.” <sup>28</sup> So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt.” <sup>29</sup> He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. <sup>30</sup> Now this thing became a sin, for the people went *to worship* before the one as far as Dan.

5

<sup>31</sup> And he made houses on high places, and made priests from among all the people who were not of the sons of Levi. <sup>32</sup> Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; thus he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. <sup>33</sup> Then he went up to the altar which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised in his own heart; and he instituted a feast for the sons of Israel and went up to the altar to burn incense.

(1 Kings 12:25-33)

6

## Man-Made Religion

### 1. Distrust of God's Word

- he did not believe God's word about the security of his kingdom
- motivated by fear, he sought security in his own wisdom

7

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
And do not lean on your own understanding.  
<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He will make your paths straight.  
(Prov. 3:5-6)

8

## Man-Made Religion

### 2. Disobedience to God's Word

- his religion was not based on what was true, but what was useful
- his religion was an appealing and subtle shift from God's word

9

Worship of the true God in a false way inevitably  
leads to the worship of a false god

10

## Man-Made Religion

### 3. Replacement of God's Word

- he created a substitute religion that closely mimicked the real thing
- his religion was devised "from his own heart," not from God's revelation

11

Our worship is based either on the prescriptions  
of God's Word or the inventions of our heart

12

<sup>23</sup> But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.  
<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

(John 4:23-24)