

I am the LORD your God; walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and observe them. Ezekiel 20:19

Store In My Heart Acts 4:11-12

This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Time and again Israel rejected the plans God had given them for their benefit. They continually followed their own way rather than submit to God. Even Jesus, the promised Messiah was rejected by them. Yet, God continued to unfold His eternal plan for man's salvation. This Jesus, the Son of God, became salvation for the very ones who had rejected Him as the Messiah.

The only hope we have to be with God is through Jesus and the sacrifice He made on Calvary. We are not wise enough to find our own way. God has shown the way we should go. Let us put our trust in God and His Plan for us.



Jeroboam Had A Problem

George Hutto

The successful kingdom of David and Solomon split into the Northern Ten Tribes and the Southern Tribe of Judah (and Benjamin) after the great kings were gone. The first king of the Ten Northern Tribes was Jeroboam, selected by God, with hopes for good from his rule. (**1Kings 11:37-38**) Solomon had been allowed to build that glorious temple in the Southern Kingdom, and Jerusalem had become the exclusive place *“called by God’s name.”* (**Deuteronomy 12:11; 1Kings 8:29; 14:21**)

So Jeroboam had a problem: the temple, the priesthood, the altar, the daily sacrifices, were all in Jerusalem in the Southern Kingdom. If he allowed his people to go down for all the religious activities, he feared they would defect.

Here was his solution: he made golden calves, one at Bethel bordering Judah and one at Dan in the very north. He said to the people, *“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... (He) made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.”* (**1Kings 12:28-31**) As one might guess, many of the devoted folk from the North moved to the South anyway (**2Chronicles 11:16**), and Jeroboam’s Golden Calf Worship became a national sin for the Ten Northern Tribes. (**1Kings 12:30**)

Jeroboam illustrates a problem that many people have in every age: they allow failures of their own making to keep them away from God’s service. Their marriage or living arrangement is simply not right. They have developed some addiction or other habit that is anathema. Perhaps they have found their way to the center of godless education or corrupt business practices. All such problems might seem insurmountable for an individual who would like to somehow get to legitimate Jerusalem worship — nowadays, true and spiritual worship in the church. (**John 4:20-24**)

Am I suggesting that Jeroboam should have allowed his people to go to Jerusalem offering their sacrifices on the true altar and to submit to the Levitical priesthood at the temple? YES. God had selected Jeroboam to be the king of the Northern Tribes, and certainly God would have helped him to worship at the proper place and in the proper way. Let national affairs fall where they may, finding their identity in counterfeit religion was too high a price to pay. Pride be gone.

Jeroboam tried to solve his problem by offering substitutes: substitute gods, substitute priests, substitute holidays, and others. Folk today are no different. They have churches that you cannot find in the Bible, “clergy” that are not talked about in the New Testament. These man-made churches make allowances for the ungodly life-styles above, even blessing homosexual marriages. Individuals might skip church services altogether by substituting their community do-good projects or making Sunday their family day. It is too much for these people to actually go to church and insist that Bible things be done in Bible ways.

Jeroboam made God’s people his enemies. As he faced the Southern Kingdom in battle, Abijah, Solomon’s grandson, spelled out his failure in painful detail. Jeroboam was simply in rebellion to God and His people. **(2Chronicles 13)** *“There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.”* **(1Kings 14:30)**

When slackers start ridiculing and defaming God’s people today, you can know what they are all about. The folks at church might be called hypocrites, they are way too harsh, they are self-centered fanatics, narrow-minded bigots. When we hear such things said about God’s people, we should remember Jeroboam and how brazen he was to defend his own sins by making enemies of the righteous.

He ignored the warnings. Not only did Abijah rebuke him before the armies of Israel, but God sent a man directly to Bethel where Jeroboam was himself burning incense.

“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 who burn incense upon thee, and men’s bones shall be burned upon thee.’ 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.” **(1Kings 13:2-3)**

The prophecy concerning Josiah was over two hundred years in coming for another generation of idolators **(2Kings 23:15-18)**, however, at that very moment Jeroboam’s altar broke apart. And as he pointed to the man of God demanding his arrest, his arm froze in the outstretched position. Only after he pleaded for the man of God to pray for him was the use of his arm restored. These and other warnings were sent against him, but Jeroboam died an idolator, and the Northern Tribes never escaped the effect of those golden calves, which became their icon. **(2Kings 17:21-23; Amos 8:14)**

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

1512 Tanner Street

Malvern, AR 72104

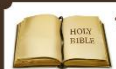
(501) 332-8806

preacher@tannerst.com

tannerst.com

FB @TannerStCoC

The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

David Laubach continues to improve.

Paula Laubach has a high sprain injury in her foot and shingles.

Vickie McNees is improving but has been pretty sick the last few weeks.

Jim Soliday has not been feeling well and start new meds for his heart rhythm in Nov. **Sue Soliday** is doing better.

JoBeth Henderson will have biopsies done the end of Oct.

Sunday Evening - **Isaiah 31** Wednesday - **Revelation 2:12**

Time Changes November 2nd