

The Man Who Stole A Country: 1 Kings 12:19; 26-32

The Man Who Stole A Country

1 Kings 12:19 So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

1 Kings 12:26-32 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.

Introduction:

I want to preach on the subject: ***The Man Who Stole A Country***

May I tell you in this message that we are living in perilous time (2 Timothy 3:1). The Bible tell us that just before the Son of Man comes again to this earth that a number of things would happen. These things are happening right before our very eyes. The things that men would love would tell the whole story: people would be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof. We have come to see each one of these running rampant across our nation since last summer, and it is continuing to this very day.

Everything we are seeing today has been seen before: the Bible says: Ecclesiastes 1:9: "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun." We are watching in America today the thing that was done 3,000 years ago in ancient Judah and Israel. We are going down the same path. It is a path that has no return unless those who are listening to God have the courage and the wisdom to return to the old paths of God's righteousness and holy living.

First, I want to tell you a story from the Bible. The Bible tells us that the wisest man who ever lived was King Solomon. The Bible tells us that King Solomon died, and that his son Rehoboam came to rule in his stead. Solomon had a servant who had worked for him for many years. This servant's name was Jeroboam. Jeroboam was a wicked man who was looking for his opportunity to steal the country away from Solomon's son Rehoboam. Jeroboam was a man of smooth words, and he knew how to sway the people away from God, from Jerusalem, and from their rightful king, Rehoboam.

Jeroboam immediately began to do everything he could to steal the people from the one right and true way. Now, I want you to remember that this thing was from God. God was using this very difficult time to teach his people to come back to him and to serve him in the way they did in the beginning. At one time, the people of Israel and Judah served the one true God. Though Jeroboam was outwardly a religious man, inwardly he loved the idols and the wickedness of the nations around him and the world. Jeroboam was shrewd enough to do a number of things that would not only steal the nation of Israel but he would also steal their hearts from God.

I. **Jeroboam stole the nation with an outward show of religion**

A. **Jeroboam stole the nation, (along with Rehoboam) by whom he chose to listen to:**

1. Rehoboam listened to the young men that he grew up with in Jerusalem. The old paths, and the tried and proved truths were thrown on the ash heap. At every turn they ever looked to the next deepest wickedness they could find.
2. They grew up within sight of the Temple, but they never believed in it. It was the most opulent Temple that the world had ever seen. It had the best of everything: every beauty, every advantage, no expense was withheld to make it fully accessible to them. – yet, they followed the ways of the sinful nations around them.
3. Kyle Borg: “iGeneration and iDentity” says that our generation is ripe for the picking by an onslaught of socialism in America. Remove people from one another and from their religion and you soon will have them tightly in grip of your fist. This generation of Americans are more isolated from one another than at any other time in our history.
 - a. Young people, ages 8 to 12, spend an average of six hours per day on technology, and teenagers 13 to 18 years of age spend an average of nine hours a day streaming videos, looking at pictures, listening to music, and playing games. That is far more time in any given day spent with parents, peers, or on sport teams.

- b. Adults don't have any better track record either: Nearly 70% of adults have social media accounts. This, taken together, has shaped the identity of our nation away from God.
- c. The scary thing is who you are listening to - not the old men that so well advised Solomon - but to the ever changing fantasy, half-truths, and mistruths of the world around us. And the vast majority of what we are listening to is antagonistic to faith, morality, and the family.
- d. Let me ask you a question: why have so many in America bought into the lies and immorality of Black Lives Matter in America? BLM proposes the destruction of family, the promotion of transgenderism, the lifestyle of LGBTQ perversions, the elimination of capitalism, and the overthrow of our constitutional freedoms. Let me assure you – this did not just happen today. Gradually, our children, our youth, and ourselves have progressively been isolated by technology, isolated from the truth of the Bible, and isolated from the absolutes of morality: and we are now seeing what a brainwashed stolen country looks like marinated in the filth that is the mainstay of the Woke Crowd: Big Tech, Movies, Music and so much more that passes for entertainment. Our country has been stolen because the minds and hearts of our people have been stolen.

II. Jeroboam stole the nation by pretending to love life, but he paved the way for the slaughter of the unborn and of the newly born in the idol worship that the nations around them worshipped.

- A. The nations surrounding Israel and Judah practiced child sacrifice. They tore open the womb and fed their unborn to the false gods of the age. The tragedy of the time was that the people were willing to suspend the truths given to them on Mount Sinai in Moses' day, and willing to buy into the lies of their neighbors and their own countrymen.
 - 1. The gods of the nations surrounding Israel were gods of death; The Lord God is a God of life and freedom. Jesus said: (John 8:36): "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

III. Jeroboam stole the nation by changing the culture of the people: this is what we call the Great Reset.

- A. Jeroboam made the decision to move the worship of the people from Jerusalem to Bethel and to Dan. In doing so, Jeroboam did several things.
1. First: Jeroboam engaged in what is now being called: Cancel Culture:
 - a. All the people of Israel, under Jeroboam's guidance, told Rehoboam – we are cancelling you! They left wholesale. And the first thing they did was to begin to riot, to destroy property, and to kill those in charge. The Bible says this mob killed Adoram when he went out, under the Rehoboam's orders, to do the business of the people.
 - b. Let's be sure about one thing: the Bible says: 1 Kings 12:30: "And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan."
 - c. We can see this in our own day: when just a few days ago: Representative Emmanuel Cleaver from Missouri led in prayer to initiate the 117 Congress of the United States: prayed, not to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but to Brahmin, a Hindu god. To add insult to injury, he concluded his prayer on that once hallowed ground, not by saying "Amen" but " A Woman". Biblical ignorance is the ground of all real injustice. This is the devil's blindness before the American people.
 - d. When you do these things: God says: You have cast Him behind your back: 1 Kings 14:9.
 2. Second: Jeroboam changed the culture of the capital: He erected new capitals on either side of the Jordan River: Shechem in Mount Ephraim, and in Penuel. He called out the army, the Reserves, and placed them everywhere, strategically, so that everybody got the idea – I am in charge now, and you'd better careful!
 3. Third: Jeroboam called for "Unity", but what Jeroboam really meant was "Conformity": the word was out – comply or get cancelled, or worse.

4. Fourth: Jeroboam wanted a new “Justice” in the land; a justice made in his own image.
 - a. Listen – we had better believe in “Justice”; but, let’s be careful here: It’s what kind of “Justice” you are talking about: Any time you have to put an adjective in front of the word “justice” it is no longer “justice”; it’s an agenda. If the guy in front of you has a club in his hand and is calling for justice, just know, it’s not about justice at all – what it’s about is that you are just about to be robbed.
5. Fifth: Jeroboam created a culture of fear: fear of what you can say, and what you cannot say or do. “Jeroboam said in his heart, now shall the kingdom return to the house of David.”
 - a. He created what the Marxists and Leninists in our day call: “Class Warfare” – for it is in the struggle of pitting one group against another that the Socialists and the Marxists take charge; In the struggle, one government is overthrown and is replaced with another. This has happened in Russia, in China, in Cuba, in Venezuela, and more.
6. Sixth, Jeroboam hi-jacked the language of the people.
 - a. The Bible has warned us that the time would come when men would forget their discernment and lose their God-given judgment:
 - 1) “Woe to them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight.” (Isaiah 5:20-21)
 - b. Jeroboam confused and controlled the language of the people: Jeroboam used the language of Solomon’s dedication of the Temple, to betray and the people into thinking that by coming to Bethel, that it was just as good as going to Jerusalem. Jeroboam hi-jacked the Feast of Tabernacles and renamed. Jeroboam assumed a colossal lie to set aside the letter of the Law, and still pretend to be on the side of right.
7. Seventh, Jeroboam put the basest people he could find into positions of authority: (Jeroboam, whom the Bible says turned not from his evil ways) 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.” (1 Kings 13:33)

- a. In all of this: the Bible says: again: “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.” (1 Kings 13:34)
 - b. It is not without notice that our new Administration has placed a man who believes he is a woman into one the highest positions of authority as Assistant HHS Secretary. Rachel Levine, a man parading as a woman who wants you to believe “Science” while at the same time denying the science of his own DNA. George Orwell’s 1984 is firmly upon our nation today. People of faith must love the sinner, but must repudiate the sin.
 - c. Ben Shapiro made this statement concerning Caitlyn Jenner on the Dr. Drew program some time ago: that to go along with the lie is accommodating delusion. The Gender Lie is not science: To mutilate oneself in the name of science is the greatest delusion; it is gender dysphoria, a medical condition that deserves not our accommodation, but our prayers that God would pull back the devils’ delusion from their eyes that they might see the truth.
 - d. Let’s not follow Max Lucado, who, just this week, for whatever reason, feels that he must apologize for preaching the truth. Be careful here, that you do not let darkness overcome your light. The light overcomes the darkness. Speak the Truth in love, but by all means, speak the Truth.
8. Eighth: Jeroboam rewrote the history of the Israelites. Did you get it?
- a. The first thing you have to do is begin by pushing over a few statues. And in its place, Jeroboam erected golden calves in Dan and in Bethel.
 - b. Just a few days ago, we witnessed the abolition of the 1776 project in our country and the adoption, even here in our beloved North Carolina, of the hateful and misinformed 1619 project - told from the perspective and lie of Critical Race Theory. Let’s make sure that our people know true American history. America is exceptional. America is a planting of the Lord. Alexis de Tocqueville (early in the history of our nation) is credited with saying: “America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.” You can find this Tocqueville’s book: “Democracy in America”.
 - c. As a matter of record: Jeroboam told a Big Lie: look at it: 1 Kings 12:28: Jeroboam said that the golden calves were the gods that brought the Israelites up out of Egypt.

- i. Do you know what you have to do to get people to believe a lie: Listen to this: “if you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. This can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic, and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State and all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the state.”
 - a) Do you know who first said this? Let it sink in: Joseph Goebbels: Adolph Hitler’s right-hand man, one of Hitler’s closest and most devoted associates: and Reich Minister of Propaganda of Nazi Germany.

Conclusion

IV. Finally: What Does God say to Jeroboam? - The Man Who Stole A Country.

- A. God said that He would tear down the works of the unrighteous and spill its ashes out on the ground:
 1. God sent an unnamed prophet to the altar in Bethel. It was there that Jeroboam was himself illegitimately offering sacrifices. The prophet said this: “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.” (1 Kings 13:3)
 2. At the very moment: the false altar of Jeroboam broke open and the ashes of his disobedience poured out onto the ground.
- B. God demonstrated that He would dry up the hand of the works of iniquity:
 1. Jeroboam put out his hand to stop this unnamed prophet and have him arrested: and just as Jeroboam put out his hand, his hand dried up before his very eyes, and became useless to him.
 2. When Jeroboam saw what happened to his hand, it became the first time that he ever showed any humility: He begged the prophet of God to pray for his healing. God is rich in mercy and healed Jeroboam’s hand. What Jeroboam needed was healing for his wicked heart. It is a sad ending to this episode that Jeroboam went right back to his wicked and sinful ways.

C. God told the prophet to leave and go home where Truth dwells:

1. Jeroboam wanted to keep the prophet with him: maybe he could turn him from the Truth: The prophet told Jeroboam that even if he gave him up to half his kingdom "I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place." (1 Kings 13:8)
2. Be careful: even this prophet bought the lie just down the road by listening to a careless prophet: Listen only to God!