



Lesson 110

Jeroboam's Idolatry

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 1 Ki. 12:25-13:10; 2 Ch. 11:14-17 • Setting: circa 930 B.C. • Main Characters: God, Jeroboam, and an unnamed man of God. • Plot: Jeroboam attempts to secure his power by introducing idolatry into Israel. • Key word(s): “behold thy ____, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt” (12:28) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climax: 1 Kings 13:4 <i>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.</i> |
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Jeroboam Rebels Against God's Law

1. (1 Ki. 12:25-27) Jeroboam feared that the Israelites would turn their allegiance back to Rehoboam if they continued to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem to worship. To prevent this, Jeroboam counterfeited a new religious system for his northern ten tribes:
 - (a)(1 Ki. 12:28-30) He had two golden calves made and announced that they represented the gods (_____) which brought Israel out of Egypt. One idol was put in Bethel and the other in Dan.
 - (b)(1 Ki. 12:31) He made pagan temples in the high places and appointed non-Levitical _____.
 - (c)(1 Ki. 12:32-33) He instituted a pagan feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, which was a month after the _____.

Jeroboam Rebuked by God's Man

2. (1 Ki. 13:1-3) While Jeroboam offered sacrifice to his idol in Bethel, an unnamed prophet cried against the altar and prophesied...
 - (a)...that an heir to David's throne would come, whose name would be _____, and he would tear down the pagan altar and offer up the ungodly priests as sacrifice instead.
 - (b)...that a miracle would immediately take place which would give credence to the prophet's words: the altar would be torn and the ashes spilled out. (The contact of the sacrificial ashes with the ground made the ashes _____ and nullified the sacrifice.)
3. (1 Ki. 13:4-5) Jeroboam was angered by the prophet's boldness and he stretched forth

his hand and ordered his guards to seize the man of God. Immediately, Jeroboam's hand _____ so that he could not draw it back to himself. Then the pagan altar was rent and the ashes poured out of the fissure.

- 4. (1 Ki. 13:6-7) Overcome with terror, Jeroboam pleaded for the prophet to entreat the LORD's mercy on his behalf. The prophet prayed for Jeroboam and his hand was restored.
- 5. (1 Ki. 13:8-10) Impressed and grateful, Jeroboam invited the prophet to his house for refreshment and reward, but the prophet refused, saying that the LORD had forbidden him from accepting any refreshment or from returning home by the same route. Why do you think the LORD had forbidden the prophet from doing these things? _____

Application

- 6. Jeroboam repeated the sin of _____: he introduced pagan worship of the LORD. It was not a new god that was introduced, but a paganized version of the true God. We must remember that it's not enough that we worship the LORD, but we must remember to worship the LORD in the way he commands.
- 7. Jeroboam's idolatry stemmed from two sins:
 - (a) He _____ God's word. God had promised him a kingdom and that he would bless it if Jeroboam stay true to the LORD (1 Ki. 11:38), but he lacked faith and failed.
 - (b) He feared _____ more than he feared _____. He was more afraid of facing rebellious subjects than facing a holy God. If we would fear God as we should, we would have the holy boldness we need to stand for what is right no matter the consequences.

*2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): gods • 1. a) Elohim; b) priests; c) Feast of Tabernacles • 2. a) Josiah; b) unclean • 3. withered • 5. It was a sign against the apostasy of Israel and the LORD's rejection of them • Aaron • 7. a) doubted; b) man, God

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.