

# God versus Man – Then and Now

## Introduction

### 1 Kings 12:25-33

1. The religion of Jeroboam had its origin in his heart – not from God.

1 Kings 12:26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David:

2. His religion was instituted for his own selfish ends (vs 26-29).
  - A. He wanted to keep a following.
  - B. He knew that he had to keep the people out of Jerusalem.
    - 1) This was important for him so that they would not return to serving God the proper way.
    - 2) There is no indication or assurance that they would do as he thought they would.
3. He said it was for the convenience of the people (vs 28-29).
  - A. As Rehoboam appealed to the young men – it seems that Jeroboam did the same thing.
  - B. The appeal was made “for the convenience” of the people.
  - C. He told them it was too far for them to have to go to Jerusalem.
    - 1) How many times have we heard excuses similar to this?
4. Jeroboam’s system of worship is comparable to man-made churches today.

## God's Way versus Jeroboam's Way

### 1. The object of worship.

#### A. God's Way.

**Exodus 20:1-6**

#### B. Jeroboam's Way.

**1 Kings 12:28-30**

### 2. The place of worship.

#### A. God's Way.

**Deuteronomy 12:10-14**

1 Kings 14:21 And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king. He reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there.

#### B. Jeroboam's Way.

**1 Kings 12:29**

### 3. The feast.

#### A. God ordained.

**Leviticus 23:33-38**

#### B. Jeroboam ordained.

**1 Kings 12:32-33**

**4. The Priests.**

**A. God's Way – Levites from the house of Aaron.**  
**Numbers 3:5-13**

**B. Jeroboam's Way – not Levites – not from house of Aaron.**  
**1 Kings 12:31**

**5. The Results.**

**A. God's blessing.**

Deuteronomy 11:26 "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

**B. God's curse.**  
**1 Kings 12:30**  
**1 Kings 13:1-5**

## **The Lord's Church versus Denominations**

### **1. The Builder.**

#### **A. Christ.**

Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Psalms 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it;

#### **B. Man.**

##### **1) Boniface III, Calvin, Wesley, Smyth, Smith, etc.**

### **2. Name of the members.**

#### **A. Divine.**

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

1 Peter 4:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

#### **B. Human.**

##### **1) Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, etc.**

### **3. The foundation.**

#### **A. Sonship of Christ. Matthew 16:13-18**

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

#### **B. Doctrines of men. Matthew 7:15-23**

Matthew 15:8-9 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

### **4. Worship.**

#### **A. As God directs.**

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

#### **B. As one's conscience directs, as long as he is sincere.**

Judges 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

**5. Membership.****A. The Lord adds to the church.****Acts 2:37-41, 47****B. Join the church of your choice and then follow those rules.****6. Results.****A. Has the Father and the Son.**

2 John 9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

**B. Has not God.****2 John 9****Conclusion**

- 1. Religiously, an individual is either following in the footsteps of Jeroboam, or in the steps of Christ.**
- 2. It is said of Jeroboam – “he caused Israel to sin.”**
- 3. If we follow men, we also will be caused to sin.**
- 4. Let us never forget that the “wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23).**
- 5. One can only be right religiously when we listen to and obey the Word of God – not the words of men.**

