

"IT IS TOO MUCH", #1

INTRODUCTION

- I. At the death of Solomon, king of "all Israel" in the Old Testament, his son Rehoboam succeeded him, and was concerned about the best way to rule the people of Israel.
 - A. When Solomon inherited the throne following David, he went to **God** and obtained wisdom from Him.
 - B. Now, his son Rehoboam was asked by the **people** to lighten their burdens but went to **men** before making his decision.
 1. He first went to the **older** men of the nation for advice. 1 Kings 12:1-4, 5
 - a. They advised him to lighten their burden and serve the people. vs. 6-7
 - b. He rejected their advice. v. 8
 2. He then sought advice from the **younger** men of the nation, of his own age.
 - a. They advised him to increase their burdens. vs. 8-11
 - b. He listened to them against the advice of the older men. vs. 12-14
 - c. As a result, the kingdom was divided, and the northern 10 tribes left Jerusalem to the house of David, and followed Jeroboam, the ruler of these tribes. vs. 16-19
 - 1) This fulfilled what God had warned them about. v. 15
 - 2) A minority of the kingdom, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, remained in subjection to Rehoboam in Jerusalem. vs. 20-21
 - 3) They were advised to STAY in Judah, rather than fight the ones who left. v. 22
 - II. The rest of the chapter describes the APOSTASY that Rehoboam generated out of his own heart, and used the argument that it was "too much" to go back to Jerusalem and worship and serve God there. v. 28

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, Rehobom changed THE OBJECT OF WORSHIP.

- A. The Jews had dedicated themselves to worship the one God of heaven. Exo. 20:1-5; cf Mt.4:10
 1. So, they turned to idols, and left the God of the 10 tribes.
 2. They would later see the folly of idol worship. 1 Kings 18;20-40 (Discuss)
- B. Jeroboam made two calves of gold, and declared THEM to be their gods. 1 Kings 12:28
 1. This was like the ones Aaron made when Moses was upon the mount receiving the Ten Commandment law for the whole nation of Israel. Ex. 32:1-8
 2. This was a "lie" that they were to believe, rather than the truth of God. Cf 2 Thess. 2:9-12

II. 2nd, Rehoboam changed THE PLACE OF WORSHIP.

- A. Jerusalem had been declared to be the PLACE for Jewish worship. Deut. 12:5,11; cf Isa. 4:20; Acts 8:27; 2:5
- B. Now, Rehoboam set up two convenient places for the northern tribes to worship. v. 29
 1. He told the people that it was simply "too much" for them to make the journey back to Jerusalem. v. 28
 2. This thing became a "sin" for all involved. v. 30
- C. Today, the "place" of worship is left up to the judgment of a local congregation, whether it be under a shade tree, a rented building, in a private home, or the purchase of a new or used building suitable FOR worship. Cf John 4:20-21
 1. Here, Jesus is saying that the "place" is not significant, as long as we worship the right God.
 2. The word "only" is implied, as in an elliptical statement, meaning "not in this place only."

III. 3Rd, Rehoboam changed THE PRIESTHOOD.

- A. The Jewish religion had only the Levitical (or Aaronic) priesthood, with all priests coming from the tribe of Levi, through Aaron, so either term can describe it.

1. Saul attempted to promote sacrifices through HIS (the Benjaminite tribe), and sinned in so doing. 1 Sam. 13:6-18
2. Mormons claim to have a multiplicity of priests, in which they delight.
 - a. 1st, the Priesthood of Aaron, possessed by Latter Day Saints (Doctrine & Covenants; 84:18; yet condemned in the N.T. cf Heb. 9:12-13; 13:10
 - b. 2nd, they claim the Priesthood of the Levites, possessed by Joseph of the Latter Day Saints (1 Nephi 5:14; 6:2; 7:22), which truly was **only** for the Levites of the O.T. cf Num. 3:10; 18:6-7
 - c. 3rd, they claim the Priesthood of Moses' Law, which the Latter Day Saints keep (2 Nephi. 25:24-25) while using non-Levites IN this Priesthood; which means they have fallen from grace. (Gal.5:4; Rom. 7:4, 6, 7)
 - d. 4th, they claim the Priesthood of Melchizedek (Doctrine & Covenants 84:14-18; Joseph Smith 2:64-72), which was ONLY for a limited time, and to become the "type" of the priesthood of Christ.
3. The Roman Catholic Church has "priests" in charge of every congregation, to administer the "eucharist" and perform weddings, but their superiors are the bishops, who are the direct servants of the Pope, but have no doctrine of having "high priests", unless the Pope himself is that high priest, while claiming to be the Lord God, which if true, they have skipped the role of high priests.

B. In the gospel age, the priesthood of Christ with priests as Christians is acceptable.

IV. 4th, Rehoboam changed the DAY OF WORSHIP.

A. The time for Jewish worship was to be on the 7th month and the 15th day of the year, to the 8th month and 15th day. Lev. 23:33-34; 1 Kings 12:32-33

1. Note that this decision came from Jeroboam's "own heart", making it a human doctrine and not God's will.
2. One might argue that "well, it was only one month different, but on the same day, so isn't that close enough?"

B. Then, the worship itself involved sacrifices TO the "golden calves" that "he had made", and not to Jehovah God. 1 Kings 12:32; Cf Acts 17:24-25

CONCLUSION

- I. This great Bible chapter is a **picture** of what would happen in the gospel age.
 - A. Some **still** worship idols, and even worship Mary (the mother of Jesus) and angels.
 - B. Some confine their worship to "high places" and Cathedrals, in their idolatry.
 - C. Some ignore the Bible teaching of the "Priesthood", and most Protestants ignore it completely.
 - D. Most "worship" in the so-called "Christian age" consists of doctrines of "men" rather than the doctrine of Christ. Matt. 15:9; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 John 9
- II. The invitation at this time is extended to all who have not yet confessed Christ, repented of their sins, and being baptized into Christ for the remission of sins.

DON TARBET (Thanks to Toby Soechting for the inspiration and thoughts for this outline.)