

JEROBOAM MAKES IDOLS FOR ISRAEL TO WORSHIP

January 8, 1911

1 Kings 12 : 25-33. Study 1 Kings 12 : 25 to 13 : 6—Memory Verses, 28-30.

Golden Text—Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.—Exodus 20 : 4.

25 Then Jerobo'am built She'chem in mount E'phraim, and dwelt therein ; and went out from thence, and built Pen'uel.

26 And Jerobo'am said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of Da'vid :

27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jeru'salem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, *even* unto Rehobo'am king of Ju'dah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehobo'am king of Ju'dah.

28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and sa'd unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jeru'salem : behold thy gods, O Is'rael, which brought thee up out of the land of E'gypt.

29 And he set the one in Beth'-el, 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 Le'vi.

32 And Jerobo'am ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Ju'dah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Beth'-el, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made : and he placed in Beth'-el the priests of the high places which he had made.

33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Beth'-el the fifteenth day of the eighth month, *even* in the month which he had devised of his own heart ; and ordained a feast unto the children of Is'rael : and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

THE LESSON RETOLD

There were now two kings ruling over the children of Israel. Rehoboam's kingdom was called the kingdom of Judah, and Jeroboam's, the kingdom of Israel.

Now Jeroboam said to himself, "If any of my people go up to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices and worship at the temple there, they will some day put me away from being their king, for at Jerusalem they will again see Rehoboam, Solomon's son, and will want him for their king."

So Jeroboam made two idols in the shape of calves, covered with shining gold. And he said to the people, "It is too far for you to go to Jerusalem to worship. See, these idols of gold are your gods ; worship them, for it was they that brought your fathers safely out of the land of Egypt where they were slaves." So Jeroboam set up the two idols, one at one end of his kingdom, in

Bethel, and the other at the other end, in the city of Dan. And the people went to these two places and worshiped these golden idols instead of the one true God. Besides, Jeroboam built temples for the images which he had made.

Jeroboam also made a feast for the people to keep at Bethel, instead of the feasts which the Lord had commanded them to keep at Jerusalem. And King Jeroboam chose men from all the tribes as priests for his idols and to offer up sacrifices, for the men of the tribe of Levi whom God had appointed to be His priests, went to live in Judah, as well as many other persons who would not worship the calves.

Now the Lord was very angry with Jeroboam for leading the people to worship idols, and a prophte was sent from Judah to rebuke the king. It happened that Jeroboam was