

Elder Bobby Willis



### **God's will, Not mine!**

Jeroboam was a ruler of the northern kingdom of Israel and was known as a king who did not honor the commandments of God. We find him as an arrogant, self-willed ruler who caused Israel to sin. The Lord stated he would smite Israel for provoking Him to anger. I Kings 14:16 says, **“and he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin.”** It is bad enough when we sin, but it is even more so when it gets others involved to the point where they sin as a result of our actions.

Usually it is more than just one offense when we involve others. With Jeroboam, there were four things which merit attention as he did his own will, rather than God's will. His actions of sin involving Israel are found in I Kings 12:28-33.

*\*First* - Jeroboam broke one of the commandments when he instituted two golden calves as objects of divine adoration (vs. 28). God said, **“Thou shalt have no other gods before me”** (Exodus 20:3).

*\*Second* - He changed the location of serving God from Jerusalem to the cities of Bethel and Dan. He called it convenience (vs. 29-30).

*\*Third* - Jeroboam chose priests from among the tribes of Israel other than from the tribe of Levi (vs. 31). God stated that priests were to come from the tribe of Levi (Deuteronomy 10:8).

*\*Fourth* - Jeroboam changed the time of the feast of the tabernacles that had been observed in Judah, from the seventh month, fifteenth day; to the eighth month, fifteenth day (vs. 32).

All four of these things were **“devised of his own heart”** (vs. 33). Jeroboam was like many people of today - self-willed. Without regard for the effect he was having on others (Israel), Jeroboam continued to do what satisfied him. He cared not that others were being led into sin by his own selfish desires.

The Apostle Paul had a name for those who, in their own wisdom, pushed their personal agenda without regard to the commandments of God. Paul called it in a

literal sense, **“will worship.”** Or, attempting to show fourth wisdom by extolling one’s own virtues. Colossians 2:23 says, **“Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.”** Notice what was satisfied: **“the flesh.”** This church had fallen into the trap of doing their own thing in the worship of God, were including the ceremonies of the law, and were being infiltrated by false prophets.

A self-centered, selfish person like Jeroboam lacks the ability to put the welfare of others before their own. It is good for us not to worship our own will, but rather seek to do the will of the Father in heaven as in Romans 12:1, **“... present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”** *Think about it!*