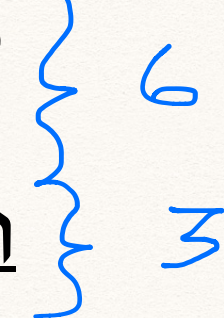


Haf. Vayeitzei

Hosea 12:13 - 14:10

Hosea 13:1

כְּדַבֵּר אֶפְרַיִם רָתַת
נִשָּׂא הוּא בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
וַיֵּאָשֶׁם בַּבַּעַל וַיָּמָת:



*When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling;
he was exalted in Israel,
but he incurred guilt through Baal and died.*

A Short Course: How Religion Happens

☞ 1 Kings 12:25-33

Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel.

Initial accomplishments

NOTE: Endorsement of a deed ≠ endorsement of a man.

²⁶ And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David...”

Fear of losing influence

²⁷ “...If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of Adonai at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.”

Fear of losing power & control

²⁸ So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.”

Rewriting history

²⁹ And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

The allure of convenience

³⁰ Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.

Worship tailored to the wishes of the people

³¹ He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites.

The Seduction of “Fairness” (= the rebellion of Korah)

³² And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made.

The Torah overthrown...

Hosea 4:6 - *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the Torah of your God, I also will forget your children.*

³³ He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised from his own heart. And he instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings

... and a new religion established

“Make for us gods that will go before us.”

☞ Exodus 32:1

The Trick-or-Treat God

Expect instant reprisal if you don't keep him happy.

The Easter Bunny God

Opposite of the Trick-or-Treat god.

Non-threatening, generous, cuddly, safe for children.

The Tooth Fairy God

Removes unwanted waste and replaces it with what you desire.

The Santa Claus God

Extremely generous, but does require some accountability.

Available only once a year. (Milk and cookies appreciated.)

The Big Foot God

Be afraid. Be VERY afraid.

The Willy Wonka God

Only those lucky enough to receive a golden ticket are allowed through the gates.

The Unknown God (Acts 17)



Q: *What made Jeroboam and Jacob so different?*

A: *Jeroboam followed his own heart.*

Hosea 12:3

***He took his brother by the heel in the womb,
and in his strength he wrestled with God.***

The Bottom Line:

***Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;
whoever is discerning, let him know them;
for the ways of Adonai are right,
and the upright walk in them,
but transgressors stumble in them.***

 Hosea 14:9