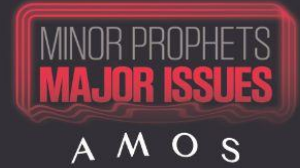


Drifting into Oppression

Brett McBride



Bible verses: 1 Kings 11: 28-40, 12

Consider

Discuss: The Study of History: Did you enjoy history when you were in school? Have you pursued the study of history in any way since school? What are the reasons for studying history? What are some of the challenges to studying history? Has there been anything from the study of history which has influenced your faith?

Let's Examine

Setting the stage: This is what happened PRIOR to the book of Amos. Setting the stage for what happens. 1 Kings 11 and 12.

Read 1 Kings 11: 28-40 (for a quick visual summary of this story check out this video: [Here](#))

- **Describe:** What/who were the 12 tribes and where were they? Very briefly, describe how they got there (can you do it in five sentences?).
- **Describe:** Who were these people, and how were they related?
 - David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam.
- **Describe:** What do these verses tell us about Solomon, Rehoboam and Jeroboam: 1 Kings 11: 1-2, 9, 26, 28, 33, 40, 43. 1 Kings 12: 8, 12-14, 26-27, 28, 31, 32.
- **Discuss:** in V.33 and 12: 28-29: The worship of other gods. The People of Israel had been chosen by God to be his messengers to the world, to allow God to be known by the nations. Discuss why what Solomon and Jeroboam did in these verses is such a sin in the eyes of God.
- **Discuss:** Do you know of any modern-day equivalents to this type of behaviour?

In Deuteronomy 17:14-20, God provides guidelines to Kings. In 1 Kings: 11:37-38, He provides specific instructions to Jeroboam.

- **Discuss:** How was Jeroboam's behaviour in opposition to what God told him to do?
- **Discuss:** What role did the laws of God and the daily reading of God's word play in those instructions?

Jeroboam's insecurity becomes his idolatry! Jeroboam doesn't trust God – he trusts himself! His own strategic planning and wisdom! He begins to operate like a King – focussed on controlling his people and building his Empire!...[without the 3-fold structure of prophet, priest and King which God set up for his people to follow.] He creates a counterfeit worship system that

has elements of Yahweh-ism in it – but is a copy of the true worship! Something strictly forbidden by the covenant he was to write out!

As the priests (Levites) flee this new system, Jeroboam recruits new king-sanctioned priests to do his bidding. ***Jeroboam sets Israel on such a destructive path – that they never really return from!***

They just drift into destruction! (Brett)

- **Discuss:** What are the contributing factors to Jeroboam allowing this drift to happen in his own life and his nation? What did he DO and what did he NOT Do?

Part of the reason for this study of the Book of Amos is to understand the DRIFT. A similar drift took place in the Christian Church as well.

- **Discuss:** Based on Brett's short telling of the Church history, some of the same contributing factors were present in the drift into oppression which happened in the church-political system which was developed. What were those contributing factors and what was the fruit of them?
- **Discuss:** Read Philippians 2:5-8 (and if you have time, the Beatitudes in Matthew 5 and the washing of the disciples' feet, John 13:1-17) What characterizes Jesus' form of leadership? How does this compare to Jeroboam and the Church leaders in the early and Middle Ages?

Let's Apply

Brett ended his sermon with these statements:

1. ***...Drifting from Biblical Worship rooted in His word is a temptation we need to continually be aware of and guard against... When we drift from His word and His ways – it is not a neutral position – it is a drift into oppression!***
2. ***Sin will keep you from this book – and this book will keep you from Sin!***

Personal Reflection: Choose one of the two statements to sit with. Ask the Lord to show you what He would like you to 'guard against', do or not do, or a way He wants you to change your trajectory. Sit with it until you have heard from Him.

Group Discussion: As you are comfortable, talk with each other about what God has revealed to you. You may not be able to change a nation, but you can change your own life and therefore the lives around you as you choose the contributing factors which will allow God to be the Guide of your Life and His ways to be the ways that you uphold.

Let's Pray

- Spend time praising God: for our example in Jesus of true leadership and Godly Character
- Confess (silently or out loud) when you have chosen power, oppression and greed over care, love and sacrifice.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower each person in your group to live in an attitude of seeking God's ways, His Righteousness and His Kingdom (Matthew 6:33)

- Continue to pray for the church around the world; That we will follow the ways of God – reflecting his Character and heart, rather than drifting into our own ways and oppression.