

upheaval and a great difficulty in staying on his throne. What Jeroboam wanted was not to weaken his throne but to strengthen ~~xxx~~ his throne. He figured that the people were going down to Jerusalem to worship his hold on the kingdom would be weakened. Many of them would go down there and they wouldn't be coming back, ~~xxxx~~ or they would be coming as fifth columnists (I don't think he used the word) for the king of Jerusalem. So Jeroboam put up two calves of gold, and he said, "It is too much for you to go to Jerusalem. ~~xxxx~~ Here are your gods which brought you up out of the land of Egypt." (Question)

That's what I'm trying to ask, "Is it a terrific radical change, or isn't it?" In actuality it is. It is a breaking of the second commandment, "Thou shalt not make an image of stone, any molten image and worship it." It's a breaking of that commandment, yes. But the way he presents it, "This is the god that brought you up out of the land of Jehovah." His claim was that this was Jehovah. His claim was that this was the God that they had always worshiped, the God that had brought them up out of Egypt. It was the same God; it was only that here was a different representation of it. That was all. He's not telling them to worship Baal; he's not telling to go after false gods; he's telling them "this is your God." He is trying to keep the conservative form, but changing vital points about it, and make a gradual shift over; and people will very easily make these gradual shifts over. They will be in a church in which the gospel was preached in power and truth and conviction and souls were saved; they will be in that church, and they will get a new minister in who changes it and preaches a denial of the truth and changes everything, but you have the external name the same, much of the external form the same; he will say that he signs the same creed and believes the same thing and the previous one and then will preach against it and they won't realize the difference; at least, if there is, they will just say that he is expressing differently. Jeroboam was expressing it in a different way here. Instead of going down to a beautiful temple down in Jerusalem which is the place where Jehovah was worshiped, you don't need to go way down there; here's a place where you can