

Jeroboam, Who Caused Israel To Sin

Jeroboam was a wicked, rebellious king who ruled the ten northern tribes of Israel. Shortly after the death of Solomon, Rehoboam, Solomon's son, succeeded his father to the throne. However, the young Rehoboam accepted some bad advice from the young men he grew up with. *"And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions"* (1 Kings 12:14). As a result of this, Jeroboam rallied the people and took control of Israel, except for the southern tribes. However, Jeroboam feared that the people would return to Rehoboam when the people went to Jerusalem to worship so he decided to set up altars in Bethel and Dan (1 Kings 12:26-29). As a result of Jeroboam's actions, he became known as, *"And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin"* (1 Kings 14:16).

While Jeroboam was credited for causing Israel to sin, John Calvin may be recognized as the one who has caused the religious world to sin. John Calvin, a French Theologian (1509-1564) has shaped modern religious thought by his doctrine known as "Calvinism". The majority of the so-called "Christian" churches in the world today subscribe to some form of Calvin's doctrine. Calvinism is identified by the acronym, T.U.L.I.P.

The "T" stands for "Total Depravity", the doctrine known as "original sin". The concept is that we are born sinners. This prompted many religious groups to baptize infants. What is interesting is, many Calvinist churches don't practice baptizing infants and, in fact, they don't practice scriptural baptism at all. False doctrines always present problems. The problem with total depravity is that you could never be more than a sinner. Regeneration would only bring you to the condition you had at birth which would be a sinner. A person could never become pure as Jesus taught children were.

The "U" stands for "Unconditional Election". According to Calvinism, God elected some to salvation and the elect will be saved regardless of what they believe or do.

Calvin's "L" is for "Limited Atonement". According to the teaching of Calvinism, Christ died only for the elect, not for everyone. The Hebrew writer evidently was not aware of this, *"But we behold him who hath been made a little lower than the angels, even Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God he should taste of death for every man"* (Hebrews 2:9).

The "I" is for "Irresistible Grace". Man does not have the ability to choose. When God calls, you answer. There is no way to say no to God.

The "P" is for "Perseverance of the Saints" or to use the more well-known term, "once saved, always saved". In my humble opinion, I believe this to be the most damnable teaching since the serpent told Eve it would be okay to eat of the tree God said not to eat of. Countless multitudes will spend eternity in Hell, because John Calvin's doctrine has influenced their life. Live like you want to. God will save you even if you don't want to be saved. The apostle Paul told the Galatians brethren, *"Ye are severed from Christ, ye who would be justified by the law; ye are fallen away from grace"* (Galatians 5:4).

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