



# EASY WAY TO PARADISE

*“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

# IKings12 Background



- The wisest man on earth has just died
- Rehoboam ascends to the throne and begins to “seek” advice
  - ✓ Lighten the load of the people!
  - ✓ Scourge the people!
- The people immediately rebel and Rehoboam returns to Jerusalem
- Jeroboam comes to take advantage of the opportunity
- Jeroboam devises some religious loopholes/shortcuts to get his way



**EASY WAY OUT**



## Jeroboam's “Easy Way Out” Plan

- Introduce new figures for God (:28)
- Introduce new formats of worship (:29)
- Introduce new forms of leadership (:31)
- Introduce new feasts to observe (:32)
- Introduce new feelings into practice (:33)

**Availability**

**Convenience**

**Inclusivity**

**Similarity**

**Emotionalism**

# Jeroboam's Easy Way Out Plan

- ✓ Convince people that false is equivalent to true
  - Many have paid a heavy price to discover that it's not
- ✓ Convince people there are convenient alternatives
  - Easier paths do not ensure arriving at the same destination
- ✓ Convince people that happiness outweighs truth
  - Your heart will never relegate God's word to second place