

ELIJAH REVIEW

1. How did Israel get into this mess?

The *syncretism* of Solomon

The arrogance of the people

1 SAMUEL 8

8:17, "He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants."

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עֶבֶד eved, “slave, servant”

“The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground.”

–Thomas Jefferson



“We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net.



Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

**—John Adams
11 Oct, 1798**

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. ...

Declaration of Independence, 1776

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Declaration of Independence, 1776

1 KINGS 11

11:4, "For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

11:5, "For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites.

11:6, "Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father had done."

SMORGASBORD RELIGION

Syncretism: The attempt to assimilate differing or opposite doctrines and practices, especially between philosophical and religious systems, resulting in a new system altogether in which the fundamental structure and tenets of each have been changed. Syncretism of the gospel occurs when its essential character is confused with elements from the culture. In **syncretism the gospel is lost as the church simply confirms what is already present in the culture.**

In syncretism, the ethics that produce the virtue and integrity needed to preserve a righteous government and honest business are destroyed.

The result is that nothing is left to restrain the lust patterns of the soul—power, money, sex, fame—which then increase their tyranny over the nation's leaders, and consequently the nation.

The second stage in the slide to tyranny occurred in the time of Jeroboam I—the alternate god.

המתחם הפולחני

The Sacred Precinct

המתחם הפולחני שלפניך, המתוארך לימי ירבעם בן-יואש (המאה השמינית לפסה"ג), הוקם על מקומו של מתחם קדום יותר, מימי ירבעם בן-נבט (המאה העשירית לפסה"ג). המקום המשיך לשמש כאתר פולחן עוד כאלף שנה, עד סוף התקופה הרומית.

The precinct before you, dated to the time of Jeroboam son of Joash (8th century BCE), replaced an earlier structure constructed by Jeroboam son of Nebat in the 10th century BCE. The precinct continued to serve as a sacred place for a thousand years, until the end of the Roman period.

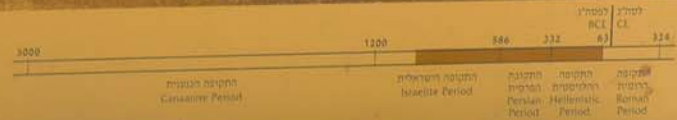
קיר (חומה?) מן התקופה ההלניסטית
Wall from the Hellenistic period

מאגר מים
Water reservoir

לשכות הכוהנים
Priest chambers

מזבח
Altar

במה
Bema (high place)





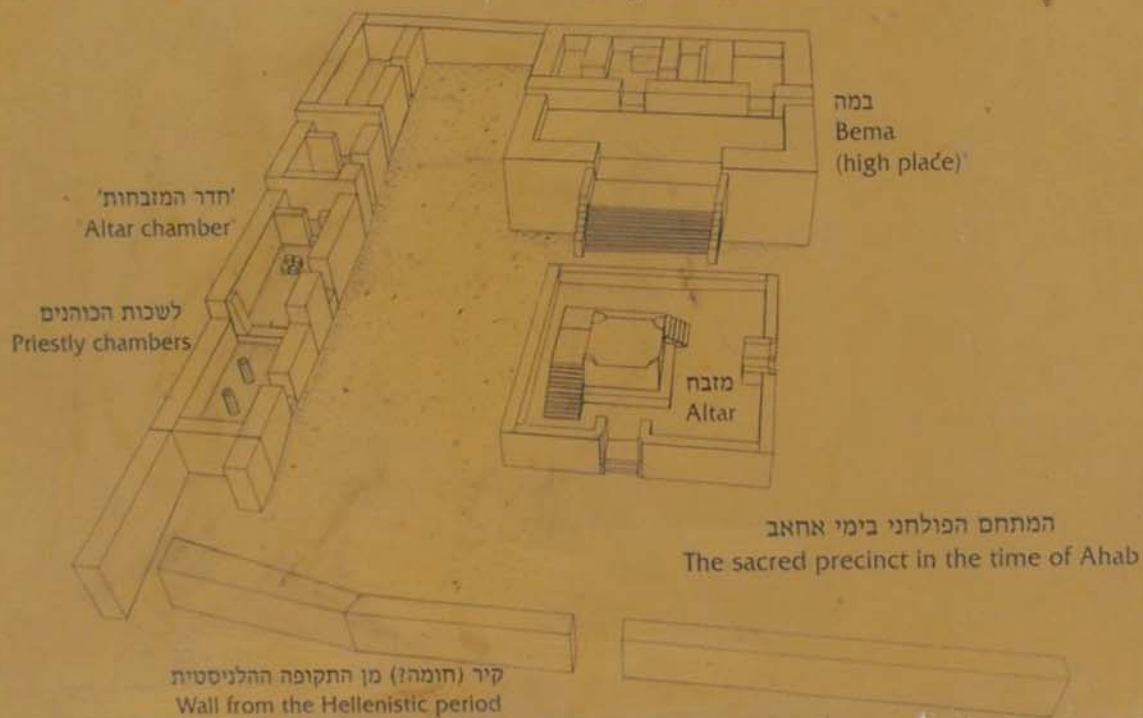
High place of Dan

המתחם הפולחני

The Sacred Precinct

לאחר פילוג הממלכה, בשנת 930 לפסה"ג, הקים ירבעם בן-נבט מרכז פולחני בדן, כדי להסיח את לב העם מן המקדש אשר בירושלים. לשם כך, הציב בדן עגל זהב ובנה בה בית כמות. המתחם הפולחני הוקף בתקופה ההלניסטית בקיר, שבו ניתן להבחין כיום. כתובת דו-לשונית – יוונית וארמית – שנמצאה כאן מעידה על קדושת המקום.

Following the division of the kingdom of Solomon in 930 BCE, Jeroboam son of Nebat established a cult at Dan as an alternative to the one at the Temple in Jerusalem. He placed a golden calf in the city and built a house of high places. In the Hellenistic period, the cultic precinct was surrounded by a wall that is visible to this day. A bilingual (Greek-Aramaic) inscription found at this site attests to the sanctity of the precinct.





...המזבח
ג' י'דאל

'And Jeru
a feast...
the altar...
caves...
unto the...
he offer...
burnt inc...



”ויעש ירבעם חג...ויעל על-המזבח...
לזבח לעגלים...ויעש חג לבני ישראל
ויעל על-המזבח להקטיר”

(מלכים א יב, לב-לג)

***"And Jeroboam ordained
a feast...and he offered upon
the altar...sacrificing unto the
calves...and ordained a feast
unto the children of Israel: and
he offered upon the altar, and
burnt incense".*** (1 Kings 12:32-33)









10 2:56PM

AMOS

5:25, "Did you offer Me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel?"

5:26, "You also carried Sikkuth your king and Chiun, your idols, the star of your gods, which you made for yourselves."

2 KINGS

17:32, "So they feared the LORD, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places."

JEREMIAH

19:5, "(they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind),"

2 KINGS

17:33, "They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods—according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away."

2 KINGS

17:40, "However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals.

17:41, "So these nations feared the LORD, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day."