

GOLDEN CALVES

Jeroboam was the one who made the **golden calves**.

- **1 Kings 12:28:** "Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."
- **1 Kings 12:32:** "And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made."
- **1 Kings 14:7, 9:** "Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel, ... But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:"
- **2 Chronicles 11:14-15:** "For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the Lord: And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made."
- **2 Chronicles 13:8:** "And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD in the hand of the sons of David; and ye be a great multitude, and there are with your golden calves, which Jeroboam made you for gods."

The reason Jeroboam made two **golden calves** for the Israelites to worship was to stop them from going to Jerusalem to worship God.

- **1 Kings 12:28:** "Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."

Jeroboam told the Israelites that the **golden calves** were the gods who brought them out of the land of Egypt.

- **1 Kings 12:28:** "Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."

Jeroboam put one of the **golden calves** in Bethel.

- **1 Kings 12:29:** "And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan."
- **2 Kings 10:29:** "Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan."

Jeroboam put one of the **golden calves** in Dan.

- **1 Kings 12:29:** "And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan."
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son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan."

The Israelites went to Dan to worship one of the **golden calves**.

- **1 Kings 12:30:** "And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan."

It was a sin for the Israelites to worship the **golden calves**.

- **1 Kings 12:30:** "And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan."
- **1 Kings 13:33:** "After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places."
- **1 Kings 13:34:** "And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth."
- **2 Kings 10:29:** "Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan."

Bethel was the place where Jeroboam offered sacrifices to the **golden calves** that he had made.

- **1 Kings 12:32:** "And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like

unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made."

In the pagan feast that Jeroboam held on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, he sacrificed to the **golden calves** that he had made.

- **1 Kings 12:32:** "And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made."
- **1 Kings 12:33:** "So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense."

Jeroboam burned incense to one of the **golden calves**.

- **1 Kings 12:33:** "So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense."

When Jeroboam led Israel into sin by making the **golden calves**, God sent someone out of Judah to rebuke him.

- **1 Kings 13:1:** "And, behold, there came a man of God out

of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense."

When the man of God who came out of Judah went to Bethel, Jeroboam was standing by the altar in order to burn incense. (It seems he was about to burn incense to the **golden calves** that he had made.)

- **1 Kings 13:1:** "And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense."

Since the pagan priests burned incense to the **golden calves** at Bethel, God was going to raise up someone who would burn the bodies of those priests on that same altar.

- **1 Kings 13:2:** "And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee."

Because Jeroboam introduced idolatry to Israel, and told them to worship the **golden calves** instead of God, the Lord decided to destroy the house of Jeroboam from off the face of the earth.

- **1 Kings 13:34:** "And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth."

Jeroboam provoked God to anger (by making the **golden calves**).

- **1 Kings 14:9:** "But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:"
- **1 Kings 15:30:** "Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger."

Jeroboam cast God behind his back (by making the **golden calves**).

- **1 Kings 14:9:** "But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back:"

During the reign of Jeroboam (the first king of the ten tribes of Israel, who made the **golden calves**), God said that He was going to remove the Israelites from the promised land and scatter them among the nations (because they weren't going to repent of their idolatry).

- **1 Kings 14:15:** "For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger."

God said that Jeroboam sinned. (He made the **golden calves** and commanded the Israelites to worship them.)

- **1 Kings 14:16:** "And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin."

God said that Jeroboam made Israel sin (by making the **golden calves** and commanding the Israelites to worship them).

- **1 Kings 14:16:** "And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin."
- **1 Kings 15:26:** "And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin."
- **1 Kings 15:30:** "Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger. "
- **1 Kings 15:34:** "And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin."
- **1 Kings 16:19:** "For his sins which he sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, to make Israel to sin."
- **1 Kings 16:26:** "For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities."
- **1 Kings 22:52:** "And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin:"

- **2 Kings 3:3:** "Nevertheless he cleaved unto the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom."
- **2 Kings 10:29:** "Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan."
- **2 Kings 10:31:** "But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin."
- **2 Kings 13:2:** "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom."
- **2 Kings 13:6:** "Nevertheless they departed not from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin, but walked therein: and there remained the grove also in Samaria.)"
- **2 Kings 13:11:** "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD; he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin: but he walked therein."
- **2 Kings 14:24:** "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."
- **2 Kings 15:9:** "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."

- **2 Kings 15:18:** "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."
- **2 Kings 15:24:** "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."
- **2 Kings 15:28:** "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."
- **2 Kings 17:21:** "For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin."
- **2 Kings 23:15:** "Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove."

Nadab walked in the same sin as Jeroboam. (In other words, he worshiped the **golden calves** that his father had made.)

- **1 Kings 15:25-26:** "And Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned over Israel two years. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin."

God punished Jeroboam for creating the **golden calves** and commanding Israel to worship them. The Lord killed his entire family until none remained.

- **1 Kings 15:29-30:** "And it came to pass, when he reigned, that he smote all the house of Jeroboam; he left not to Jeroboam any that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according unto the saying of the Lord, which he spake by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite: Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger."

Baasha walked in the same sin as Jeroboam. (In other words, he worshiped the **golden calves** that Jeroboam had made.)

- **1 Kings 15:33-34:** "In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, twenty and four years. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin."

God told Jehu that Baasha made the Israelites sin. (In other words, Baasha worshiped the **golden calves** and led Israel to do the same.)

- **1 Kings 16:1-2:** "Then the word of the Lord came to Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying, Forasmuch as I exalted thee out of the dust, and made thee prince over my people Israel; and thou hast walked in the way of Jeroboam, and hast made my people Israel to sin, to provoke me to anger with their sins;"

Although Baasha killed the house of Jeroboam, he wasn't any different from them. He committed the same sins (the idolatry of the **golden calves**).

- **1 Kings 16:7:** "And also by the hand of the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani came the word of the LORD against Baasha, and against his house, even for all the evil that he did in the sight of the LORD, in provoking him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam; and because he killed him."

Baasha and Elah made Israel provoke God to anger with their vanities. (This seems to be a reference to their idolatry of worshiping the **golden calves**.)

- **1 Kings 16:13:** "For all the sins of Baasha, and the sins of Elah his son, by which they sinned, and by which they made Israel to sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities."

Zimri walked in the same sins as Jeroboam. (This seems to be a reference to the idolatry of the **golden calves**.)

- **1 Kings 16:18-19:** "And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died. For his sins which he sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, to make Israel to sin."

The reason God killed Zimri was because of his sins. (This seems to be a reference to the idolatry of the **golden calves**.)

- **1 Kings 16:18-19:** "And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him

with fire, and died. For his sins which he sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, to make Israel to sin."

Omri walked in the way of Jeroboam. (This seems to be referring to the idolatry of the **golden calves**.)

- **1 Kings 16:25-26:** "But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the Lord, and did worse than all that were before him. For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities."

Ahab walked in the sins of Jeroboam. (This seems to refer to the worship of the **golden calves**.)

- **1 Kings 16:30-31:** "And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him. And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him."

Ahaziah walked in the ways of Jeroboam. (This seems to refer to the worship of the **golden calves**.)

- **1 Kings 22:51-52:** "Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his

mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin:"

It seems the worship of Baal was worse than the worship of the **golden calves**.

- **2 Kings 3:2:** "And he wrought evil in the sight of the LORD; but not like his father, and like his mother: for he put away the image of Baal that his father had made."

Jehoram didn't depart from the sins of Jeroboam. (In other words, he worshiped the **golden calves**.)

- **2 Kings 3:1, 3:** "Now Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. ... Nevertheless he cleaved unto the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom."

Jehu didn't depart from the sin of Jeroboam. (In other words, he worshiped the **golden calves**.)

- **2 Kings 10:28-29:** "Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel. Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan."

Jehoahaz didn't depart from the sins of Jeroboam. (In other words, he worshiped the **golden calves**.)

- **2 Kings 13:1-2:** "In the three and twentieth year of Joash

the son of Ahaziah king of Judah Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom."

Even though God delivered the Israelites from the Syrians who were oppressing them, the Israelites still didn't repent of their idolatry. (They continued to worship the **golden calves**.)

- **2 Kings 13:5-6:** "(And the Lord gave Israel a saviour, so that they went out from under the hand of the Syrians: and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents, as beforetime. Nevertheless they departed not from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin, but walked therein: and there remained the grove also in Samaria.)"

Jehoash walked in the sins of Jeroboam. (In other words, he worshiped the **golden calves**.)

- **2 Kings 13:10-11:** "In the thirty and seventh year of Joash king of Judah began Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned sixteen years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD; he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin: but he walked therein."

Jeroboam (son of Joash) did not depart from the sins of his Jeroboam (the son of Nebat). (In other words, he worshiped the **golden calves**.)

- **2 Kings 14:23-24:** "In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty and one years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."

Even though Israel was bitterly afflicted, they didn't repent of their idolatry. They continued to worship the **golden calves**.

- **2 Kings 14:24-26:** "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the Lord God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher. For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel."

Zachariah didn't depart from the sins of Jeroboam. (In other words, he worshiped the **golden calves**.)

- **2 Kings 15:8-9:** "In the thirty and eighth year of Azariah king of Judah did Zachariah the son of Jeroboam reign over Israel in Samaria six months. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."

Even though the descendants of Jehu were idolatrous and

worshiped the **golden calves**, God still kept the promise He made to Jehu that his children would sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation. Their idolatry didn't cancel God's promise.

- **2 Kings 15:12:** "This was the word of the LORD which he spake unto Jehu, saying, Thy sons shall sit on the throne of Israel unto the fourth generation. And so it came to pass."

Menahem didn't depart from the sins of Jeroboam. (In other words, he worshiped the **golden calves**.)

- **2 Kings 15:17-18:** "In the nine and thirtieth year of Azariah king of Judah began Menahem the son of Gadi to reign over Israel, and reigned ten years in Samaria. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."

Pekahiah didn't depart from the sins of Jeroboam. (In other words, he worshiped the **golden calves**.)

- **2 Kings 15:23-24:** "In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."

Pekah didn't depart from the sins of Jeroboam. (In other words, he worshiped the **golden calves**.)

- **2 Kings 15:27-28:** "In the two and fiftieth year of Azariah

king of Judah Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and reigned twenty years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."

The people of Israel made two **golden calves**.

- **2 Kings 17:7, 16:** "For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, ... And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal."

The sin of worshiping the **golden calves** was an enormous sin.

- **2 Kings 17:21:** "For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin."

Jeroboam drove Israel away from following God. (He made the two **golden calves**, and led the Israelites to worship them.)

- **2 Kings 17:21:** "For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin."

The Israelites never departed from the sins of Jeroboam. They were still worshiping the **golden calves** when the king of Assyria removed them from the promised land.

- **2 Kings 17:22-23:** "For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; Until the Lord removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day."

There was a high place and an altar at Bethel (which was used to worship the **golden calves**). Josiah destroyed them and burned the bones of the pagan priests, just as God said would happen.

- **2 Kings 23:15-16:** "Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove. And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the Lord which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words."

Jeroboam ordained priests for worshiping the **golden calves** that he had made.

- **2 Chronicles 11:14-15:** "For the Levites left their suburbs and their possession, and came to Judah and Jerusalem: for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them off from executing the priest's office unto the Lord: And he

ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made."

The Israelites worshiped the **golden calves** as their gods.

- **2 Chronicles 13:8:** "And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD in the hand of the sons of David; and ye be a great multitude, and there are with your golden calves, which Jeroboam made you for gods."

Shortly after the Israelites started worshiping the **golden calves**, God killed 500,000 of them (by giving them into the hand of their enemies).

- **2 Chronicles 13:17:** "And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter: so there fell down slain of Israel five hundred thousand chosen men."

Abijah conquered Bethel, the city that had one of Jeroboam's **golden calves**. However, it seems he didn't destroy the golden calf which was located there (even though he had the opportunity to do so).

- **2 Chronicles 13:19:** "And Abijah pursued after Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Bethel with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and Ephraim with the towns thereof."

Jehoshaphat didn't copy the idolatry of the Israelites (who worshiped the **golden calves**).

- **2 Chronicles 17:3-4:** "And the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David,

and sought not unto Baalim; But sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel."

The reason God was going to punish Ephraim and send judgment upon them was because that tribe willingly did evil. (It willingly obeyed Jeroboam's commandment to worship the **golden calves.**)

- **Hosea 5:11:** "Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment, because he willingly walked after the commandment."

God said that when He removed Samaria's **golden calves**, the pagan priests would mourn. The Israelites loved their idols and didn't want to lose them. Instead of fearing God and repenting of their sin, they would mourn the loss of the idols that they loved.

- **Hosea 10:5:** "The inhabitants of Samaria shall fear because of the calves of Bethaven: for the people thereof shall mourn over it, and the priests thereof that rejoiced on it, for the glory thereof, because it is departed from it."

One of the ways the tribe of Ephraim worshiped the **golden calves** was by kissing them.

- **Hosea 13:2:** "And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves."

The Israelites brought sacrifices to the **golden calves** every morning.

- **Amos 4:4:** "Come to Bethel, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes after three years:"

The Israelites brought their tithes to the **golden calves** every three years.

- **Amos 4:4:** "Come to Bethel, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes after three years:"

The worship of Jeroboam's **golden calves** was a transgression against God.

- **Amos 4:4:** "Come to Bethel, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes after three years:"

When the Israelites sacrificed to the **golden calves**, they put leaven in their sacrifices. (Leaven is symbolic of sin, and in most cases wasn't permitted in the sacrifices which were offered to God.)

- **Amos 4:5:** "And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, and proclaim and publish the free offerings: for this liketh you, O ye children of Israel, saith the Lord GOD."

When God sent a famine upon Israel, they didn't repent. When God sent a drought upon Israel, they didn't repent. When God destroyed their crops, they didn't repent. When God killed them with the sword, they didn't repent. The Israelites ignored all of God's judgments and continued to worship the **golden calves**.

- **Amos 4:10:** "I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD."

Amaziah (who opposed the ministry of the prophet Amos) was a priest of Bethel. This means he was a pagan priest of the **golden calves**.

- **Amos 7:10:** "Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words."

This prophecy was given to Zephaniah during the reign of Josiah, king of Judah. (Josiah was a righteous king who turned to God with all his heart. He was the king who destroyed Jeroboam's **golden calves**.)

- **Zephaniah 1:1:** "The word of the LORD which came unto Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hizkiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah."