

A blurred background image of chess pieces on a board, with a dark diagonal overlay at the bottom.

# 1&2 KINGS

A Leadership Series

# THE IDOLATROUS LEADERSHIP OF JEROBOAM

25 Then Jeroboam fortified Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. From there he went out and built up Peniel.

26 Jeroboam thought to himself, “The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David.

27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem,

**1 Kings 12:25-33**

they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam.”<sup>28</sup> After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

**1 Kings 12:25-33**

<sup>29</sup> One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. <sup>30</sup> And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other. <sup>31</sup> Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites.

**1 Kings 12:25-33**

<sup>32</sup> He instituted a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival held in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. This he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he had made. And at Bethel he also installed priests at the high places he had made.

**1 Kings 12:25-33**

<sup>33</sup> On the fifteenth day of the eighth month, a month of his own choosing, he offered sacrifices on the altar he had built at Bethel. So he instituted the festival for the Israelites and went up to the altar to make offerings.

**1 Kings 12:25-33**

**Center your life and identity on your spouse or partner**

**Center your life and identity on your family and children**

**Center your life and identity on your work and career**

**Center your life and identity on money and possessions**

**- Tim Keller -  
“The Reason for God”**

**Center your life and identity on pleasure, gratification, and comfort**

**Center your life and identity on relationships and approval**

**Center your life and identity on a "noble cause"**

**Center your life and identity on religion and morality**

**- Tim Keller -  
"The Reason for God"**

**1) IDOLATRY IS  
WORSHIP TAKEN OUT  
OF CONTEXT**

25 Then Jeroboam fortified Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. From there he went out and built up Peniel.  
26 Jeroboam thought to himself, “The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David.

**1 Kings 12:25-27**

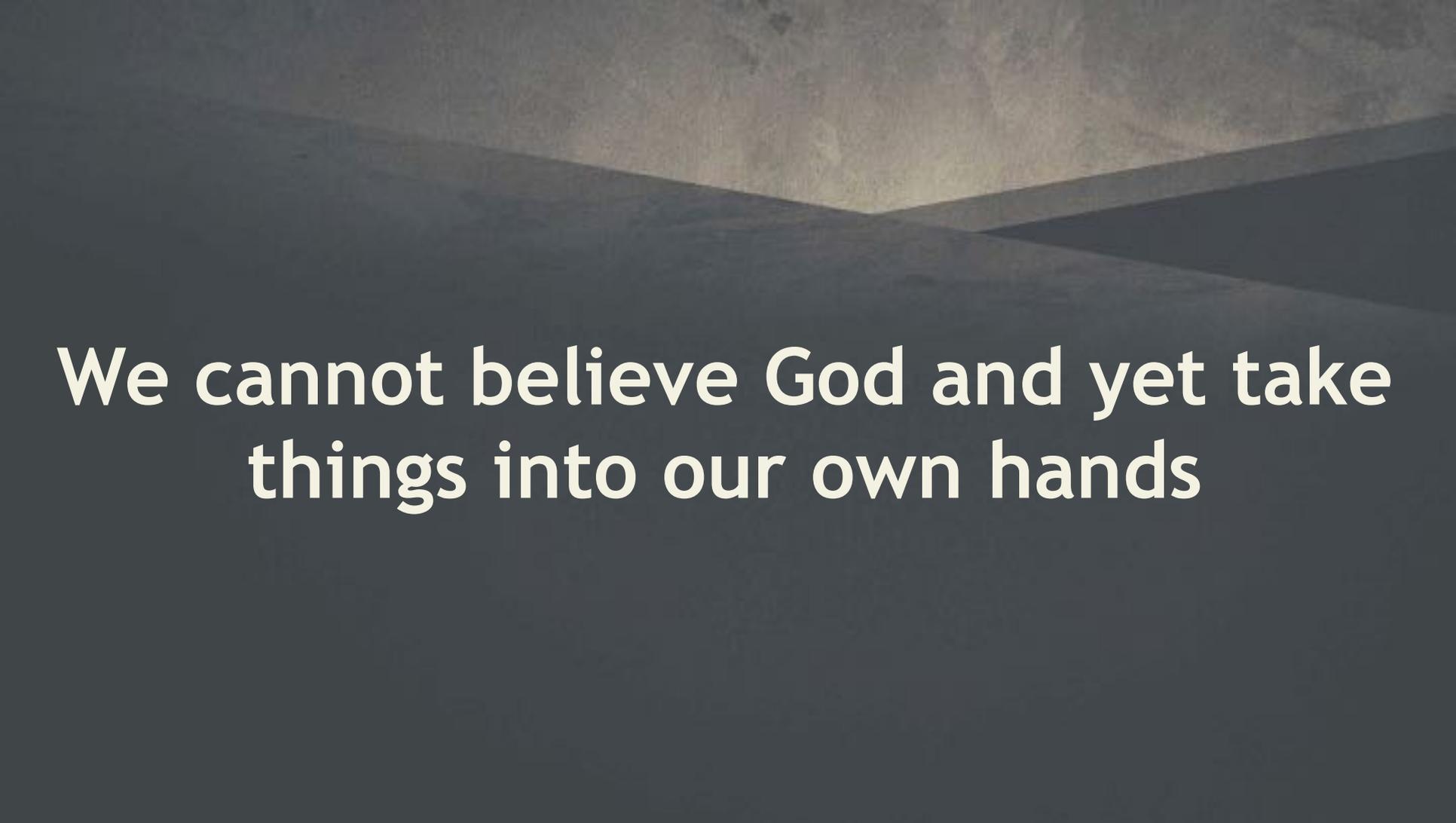
27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam.”

**1 Kings 12:25-27**

**“Jeroboam thought to himself”  
(vs. 26)**

<sup>38</sup> If you do whatever I command you and walk in obedience to me and do what is right in my eyes by obeying my decrees and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you.

**1 Kings 11:38**



**We cannot believe God and yet take  
things into our own hands**

**There is never a point in our lives  
when we stop worshipping. It is just  
a matter of who we are  
worshipping; God or an idol.**

**2) IDOLATRY IS  
WORSHIP DONE OUT  
OF CONVENIENCE**

28 After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

**1 Kings 12:28-30**

29 One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. 30 And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other.

**1 Kings 12:28-30**

**“After seeking advice”  
(vs. 28)**

He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

**Exodus 32:4**

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God,  
the LORD is one.

**Deuteronomy 6:4**

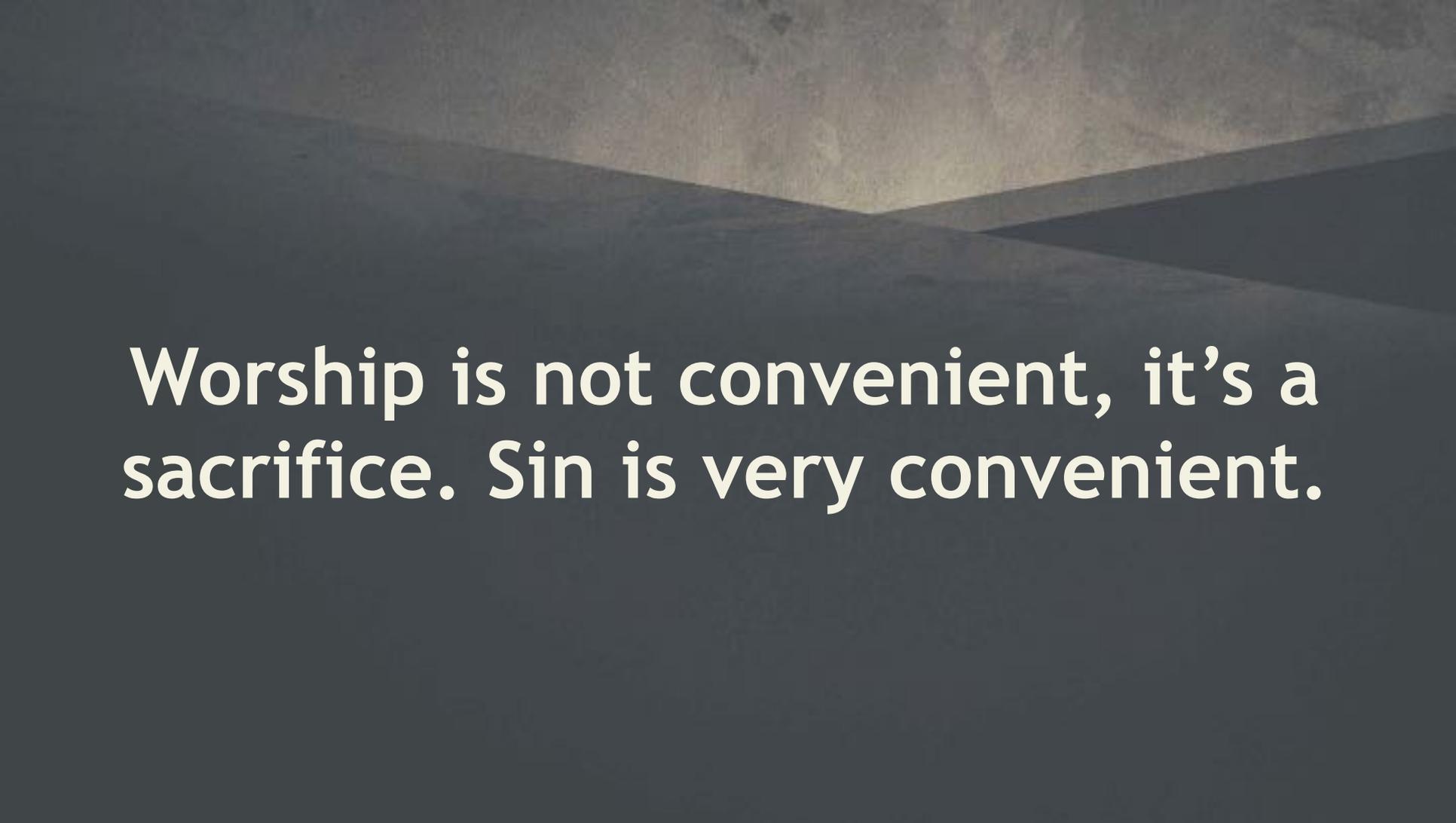


**“We become what we worship.”**

**- Greg K. Beale -**

<sup>4</sup> But their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands. <sup>5</sup> They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. <sup>6</sup> They have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell. <sup>7</sup> They have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk, nor can they utter a sound with their throats. <sup>8</sup> Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.

**Psalm 115:4-8**



**Worship is not convenient, it's a sacrifice. Sin is very convenient.**

**3) IDOLATRY IS WORSHIP  
THAT IS COUNTERFEIT**

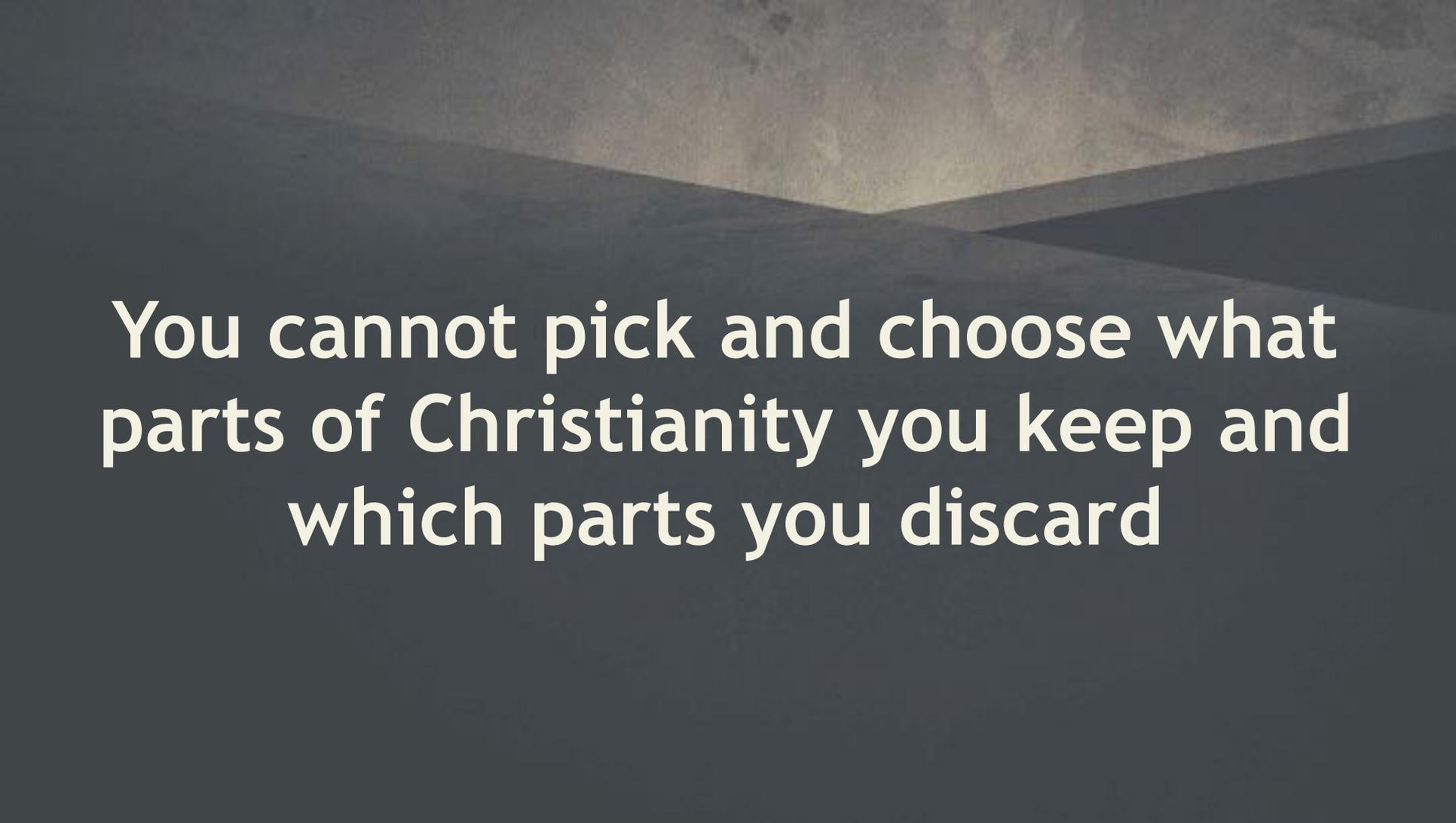
<sup>31</sup> Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites. <sup>32</sup> He instituted a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival held in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. This he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he had made.

**1 Kings 12:31-33**

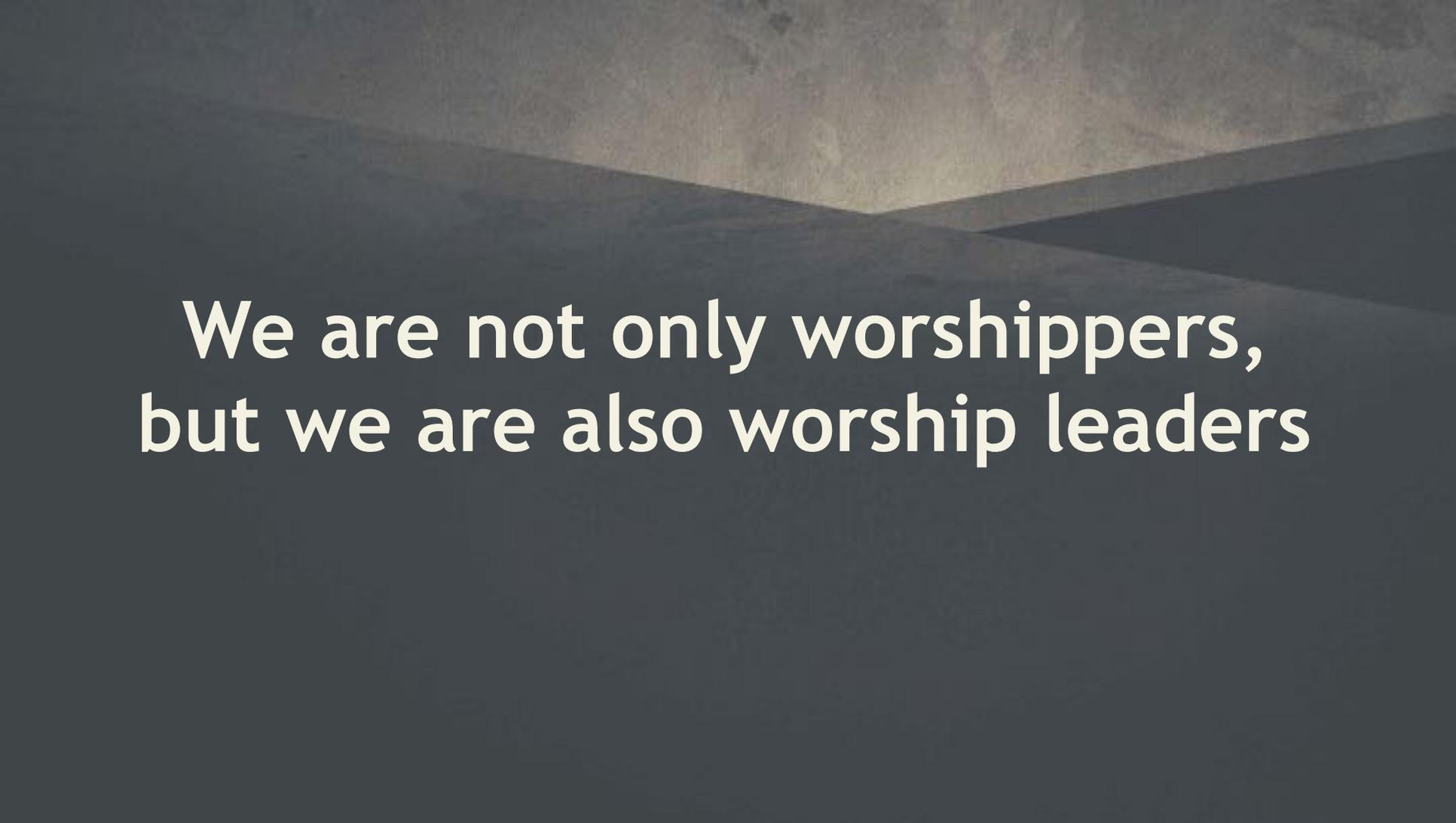
And at Bethel he also installed priests at the high places he had made. <sup>33</sup> On the fifteenth day of the eighth month, a month of his own choosing, he offered sacrifices on the altar he had built at Bethel. So he instituted the festival for the Israelites and went up to the altar to make offerings.

**1 Kings 12:31-33**

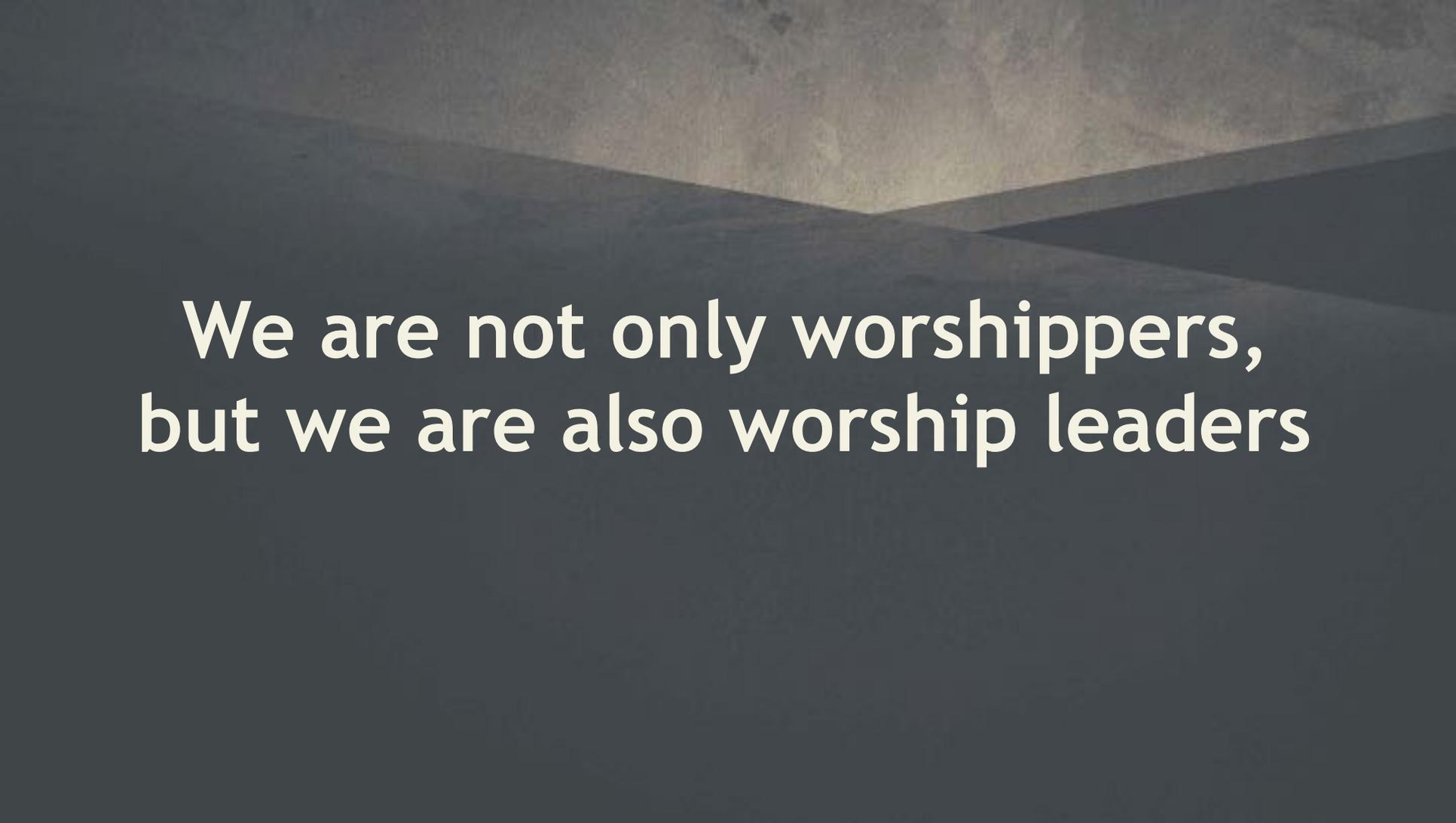
**“of his own choosing”  
(vs. 33)**



**You cannot pick and choose what  
parts of Christianity you keep and  
which parts you discard**



**We are not only worshippers,  
but we are also worship leaders**



**We are not only worshippers,  
but we are also worship leaders**



16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” 17 He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

**Genesis 28:16-19**

<sup>18</sup> Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it.

<sup>19</sup> He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

**Genesis 28:16-19**

<sup>9</sup> You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have aroused my anger and turned your back on me.

**1 Kings 14:9**

<sup>21</sup> Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

**1 John 5:21**



# 1&2KINGS

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a biblical theology series