

Rehoboam

Lesson 28

INTRO:

- A. Rehoboam's father was David and his mother was Naamah "*the Ammonitess*". (1 **Kings 14:21**; 2 **Chronicles 12:13**).
1. He was 41 years old when he began to reign and reigned 17 years.
- B. Background:
1. Solomon had engaged in major constructing of buildings, including the temple in Jerusalem and his own palace.
 2. To accomplish all this, he placed a large number of people into forced labor (1 **Kings 9:15,20-22**).
 - a. The remnant of the nations of Canaan were the slaves and the children of Israel were made captains, commanders, and overseers of various kinds. 3. By the time Solomon died, many of the people were wanting relief from the tax burdens and the forced labor.
 4. Solomon had somehow been made aware of a warning by the prophet Ahijah that the kingdom would soon be divided.
 - a. Ahijah took Jeroboam's outer garment and torn it into twelve pieces—symbolizing the twelve tribes of Israel.
 - b. Ten of the pieces were given to a man named Jeroboam, indicating he would be the leader of ten tribes (1 **Kings 11:29-40**).
 - c. Jeroboam was an "*industrious*" servant whom Solomon had chosen as an officer over some of his labor force (1 **Kings 11:28**).
 - d. However, when Solomon somehow learned about Ahijah's prophecy, he tried to kill Jeroboam.
 - e. Jeroboam fled to Egypt where he remained until Solomon's death.
- C. When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam was to be the next king of Israel.
1. The unrest among the tribes of Israel was great and they made a special request to Rehoboam (1 **Kings 12:4**)
 2. Rehoboam asked for three days to give them an answer. (v. 5)
 3. He first goes to the elders of Israel and asked their advice. Their answer was, (v. 7)
 4. Yet, he disregarded their advice and "*consulted the young men who had grown up with him*" (v. 8)
 5. Their advice was: (vs. 10-11)
 6. On the third day, Rehoboam "*answered the people roughly,...*" (v. 13-14)
 7. As a result, the nation divides just as Ahijah prophesied:
 - a. The northern kingdom made up of ten tribes ruled by Jeroboam.
 - b. The southern kingdom of Judah and Benjamin ruled by Rehoboam.
 8. The Scriptures summarize Rehoboam's reign: (2 **Chronicles 12:14**).

I. LESSONS:

- A. **A Man's Choices And Actions As A Husband And Father Often Are Repeated In The Lives Of His Sons!**
1. David is remembered for having 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 **Kings 11:12**).

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2. Rehoboam didn't quite match his father's numbers, but he did have 18 wives and 60 concubines (**2 Chronicles 11:21**).
 3. You see, he grew up in that kind of environment, seeing his father's lifestyle, so his decisions as an adult are not surprising.
 4. Fathers, our sons are observing our speech and our actions.
 5. We need to set forth habits that show "*a pattern of good works*" (**Titus 2:7**) so our sons can imitate and be pleasing to the Lord.
- B. When One Forsakes The Law Of The Lord That Is The Same As Forsaking The Lord Himself!**
1. In reference to Rehoboam, the Scriptures say, "*he forsook the law of the Lord*" (**2 Chronicles 12:1**).
 2. Four verses later we read a prophet of God accused the king and other leaders of Judah with these words: "*You have forsaken Me...*" (**12:5**).
 3. One who is faithful to God is one who submits to His word!
 4. Those who are convinced they can be faithful to God without being faithful to His word are only deceiving themselves.
 5. People who draw near to God are those who submit to Him according to His teaching (**James 4:7,8**).
- C. Our Choices Have Consequences For Us And For Others!**
1. Rehoboam made a bad choice and there were bad results.
 2. Every day we are bombarded with dozens of messages advising us what to buy, how to be successful, where to find fun and pleasure, etc.
 - a. By way of advertisements, TV, Internet, and conversations with friends—we are pushed to follow a certain way of conduct.
 3. Making proper choices is an important activity in life.
 - a. Most of us have made choices which we wish we could make again.
 - b. Most of us have said about a choice we made: "If only I had done this instead of that."
 4. A critical moment comes in every life, when each person must make a choice that will have eternal consequences.
 - a. Every human being must choose between the narrow road that leads to life or the broad road that leads to eternal destruction.
 5. Remember life here on earth for any one of us may soon be over.
 - a. Each of us has to choose between life and death, between sin and righteousness, between the world and Christ, between fellowship with the children of God and friendship with the offspring of the devil.
 6. May God help each of us to make wise choices daily in view of eternity.
- D. It Is Always Wise To Ask Qualified People For Their Help When We Have Decisions To Make!**
1. This is true whether it pertains to our livelihood in business or finances.
 - a. Would you seek advice from someone whose business failed or is financially bankrupt?

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2. May we then see the importance in spiritual matters of finding someone who has a godly character and shows wisdom in their daily life.
 3. If possible, find someone who has handled a situation that's similar to the one we are dealing with whether it's of a secular nature or spiritual nature.
 4. Sometimes when we seek advice from others, there's a good chance our friends are likely to tell us what we want to hear!
 - a. Rehoboam's young friends tells us something about Rehoboam's character.
 - b. He was obviously a close friend of these young men.
 - 1) Notice in **1 Kings 12:6** (to the elders), Rehoboam asked, "*How do ye advise that I may answer this people?*"
 - 2) But in **1 Kings 12:9** (to the younger men), Rehoboam asked, "*What counsel give ye that WE may answer this people?*"
 - 3) The use of the word "we" indicates Rehoboam was a close friend with these haughty arrogant young men.
 - c. Wrong company corrupts good manners (**1 Corinthians 15:33**).
 5. Proverbs gives us insight when it comes to getting advice: (**Proverbs 11:14; 15:22**)
- E. **Crude And Heartless Language Should Not Be Part Of Our Vocabularies!**
1. "*Then the king answered the people roughly,*" (**1 Kings 12:13**)
 - a. His answer lacked compassion.
 2. Our generation is more and more caught up in using crude "in-your-face" kinds of words.
 3. Some of the radio and TV talk shows are filled with abrasive and heartless responses to each other's points of view.
 4. **Colossians 4:6**
- F. **God Will Forsake Those Who Forsake Him!**
1. **2 Chronicles 12:1, 5**

CONCLUSION:

- A. From Rehoboam we learn the importance of wise counsel and maintaining faithfulness to God.
 1. When Rehoboam went his own way, things did not go well for his nation.
 2. When he listened to God, Judah was secure.
- B. In addition to the moral and spiritual decay of the nation of Judah under Rehoboam, "*There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.*" (**1 Kings 14:30**)
- C. When Rehoboam was 58 years old, he "*slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David*" (**1 Kings 14:31**).

LESSON 29

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1 Kings 11:26-14:20; 2 Chronicles 10:1-17; 13:1-20