

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to 1 Kings 12

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through 1 Kings

Last week, we looked at how King Solomon's life ended.

He started well – as he recognized and responded to the charge that his father had given – that it was God's will for him to build the temple

But then Solomon began drifting from the Lord – collecting the three things that the Lord had warned him not to collect – and we saw that his life ended with him being an idolator.

He was worshipping false dead idols instead of having a relationship with the One True God.

Beginning this evening, we are going to see the consequences of His actions.

Not only are we going to see his consequences affect the decisions his son makes, as king – but we are going to see how the nation is torn from his family– just as God said He would.

Let's pray...

Before we begin – want you to make note of two individuals in this chapter.

Reheboam is the son of Solomon

Jereboam is the former servant of Solomon who rebelled against him – who God said He was going to give 10 of tribes to.

**[1Ki 12:1-33 NKJV] 1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king.**

So at the end of the last chapter – we saw the announcement of Solomon's death.

Rehoboam – he is the king in waiting.

He goes to Shechem for his coronation.

Now, Shechem is a very important place in the Old Testament – Abraham and Jacob built altars there to worship the Lord.

Joshua was buried in Shechem –

But the reason for the coronation ceremony being in Shechem is because it was the geographical center of the Northern Kingdom –

Remember, the Northern Kingdom is going to have 10 tribes. Will be known as the Kingdom of Israel.

The Southern Kingdom is going to have only two tribes. Judah and Benjamin – but from now on, will be known as the Kingdom of Judah.

**2 So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard [it] (he was still in Egypt, for he had fled from the presence of King Solomon and had been dwelling in Egypt), 3 that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, 4 "Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."**

At the end of chapter 11 – Jeroboam flees to Egypt because Solomon wanted to kill him – even though God had already communicated to Jeroboam through the prophet Ahijah, that He was going to tear the kingdom from Solomon's son and given to him.

So he gets word that Solomon is dead –

He shows up along with the leaders from the ten other tribes – they stand before Rehoboam and they tell him –

Now, keep in mind that even though the divide is forming – the two kingdoms have not yet split.

So they tell Rehoboam -

"Your dad put a heavy yoke upon us – meaning, your taxed us like crazy." Give us relief from the taxation and we will serve you.

Remember Solomon had all these projects aside from the temple.

All that was built on the tax payer money.

By the way – in 1 Sam 8, you might want to mark it.

When the Children of Israel demanded a king because they wanted to be like their neighbors. (they were supposed to be a theocracy – governed by God)

God told them, through Samuel that their earthly king was going to put a heavy yoke upon them – through taxation and by taking the children into battle.

So we see the consequences of them wanting a king

So they tell Rehoboam – give us a break – that is all we want.

They were not saying – we don't want to pay taxes anymore. Just give us a break –

Now – a little bit of application for us –

Man tends to put heavy yokes on people.

“You need to do this”

“You need to act a certain way”

The early church – they did this when they told them that they needed to be circumcised to be a real Christian.

That is a yoke – that is a burden

We are not under the law

We are not under a burden

We are under grace

And often we put burdens on other people or we put burdens on ourselves.

We need to be able to operate under grace

Turn to Matthew 11

**[Mat 11:28-29 NKJV] 28 "Come to Me, all [you] who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

Jesus says – take My yoke upon you – He doesn't say, take man's yoke upon you.

He doesn't say take the yoke of your pastor upon you or the yoke of someone else in the body – He says, take My yoke upon you.

**[Mat 11:30 NKJV] 30 "For My yoke [is] easy and My burden is light."**

That is Jesus' heart and this needs to be our heart – and we need to guard our hearts against these thing – not placing burdens upon people.

So let's see what Rehoboam does.

**5 So he said to them, "Depart [for] three days, then come back to me." And the people departed.**

Rehoboam wants a few days to think about their request.

**6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise [me] to answer these people?" 7 And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."**

First of all, Rehoboam does something good here – he seeks counsel.

He has a big decision ahead of him – and he has a bunch of guys that served his father who are much more experienced than he was.

Wisdom understands that other people also have wisdom.

**[Pro 15:22 NKJV] 22 Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.**

And when we look at the advice that they gave Rehoboam –

Serve those that you were called to serve.

This is the same thing that Jesus told His disciples.

Remember James and John were arguing about who was going to be #2

**[Mar 10:42-45 NKJV] 42 But Jesus called them to [Himself] and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**

And Jesus demonstrated this later on at the last supper where He washes their feet.

We look to Jesus today (the King of Kings) not just because of the position He holds in heaven but because of what He did for us on the cross

And He is still serving

Jesus is still washing dirty feet – by accepting us

He is the One who cleanses us

So these elders give Rehoboam good advice – however, he still has to act on it.

**8 But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.**

Rehoboam seeks council from the guys he grew up with – his personnel friends that are benefitting from him being king -

**9 And he said to them, "What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?" 10 Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make [it] lighter on us'--thus you shall say to them: 'My little [finger] shall be thicker than my father's waist! 11 'And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!' "**

So we see here that Rehoboam's friends – they give him bad counsel.

Their counsel was the opposite of what the elders offered.

They tell Rehoboam to tell the nations that he is going to put a heavier burden on them – and make them fear him more than his father.

So yes – we are to seek counsel but we are also to be able to discern whether the counsel we receive is good counsel or bad counsel

And the way we are able to discern is by first, being in the counsel of God's Word.

Before we seek man's counsel – it is good that we seek God's counsel first.

He will lead us to good counselors



Rehoboam had already made up his mind on what he was planning to do – we was just looking around for people that were going to agree with him.

They are going to tell him what he wants to hear.

He just wants to hear yes!!!

**12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had directed, saying, "Come back to me the third day." 13 Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him; 14 and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!" 15 So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn [of events] was from the LORD, that He might fulfill His word, which the LORD had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.**

We already know that God had planned on the kingdom being torn from the house of David because of Solomon's sin.

Rehoboam's poor judgment became the thing that God would use to accomplish this thing.

Does that let Rehoboam off the hook for having poor judgment? Not at all.

If Rehoboam had made a wise choice, God would have used something else to have brought about the division of the kingdom.

And the consequences of Rehoboam's choice is massive rebellion against the Lord and Civil War.

Notice that God had nothing do with the sin of Solomon or bad decision of Rehoboam – yet God was in it all.

**16 Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What share have we in David? [We have] no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!" So Israel departed to their tents.**

So here we have the response of the people – Rehoboam, we don't want to be ruled by you and they spilt.

**17 But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah. 18 Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who [was] in charge of the revenue; but all Israel stoned him with stones, and he died. Therefore King Rehoboam mounted his chariot in haste to flee to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.**

So it seems like initially Rehoboam didn't take this too seriously.

Rehoboam sends his chief tax collector to the region (IRS) – probably the worst person he could have sent – that is who the people were mad at - and the people stone him to death.

**20 Now it came to pass when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they sent for him and called him to the congregation, and made him king over all Israel. There was none who followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.**

So we have the fulfillment of what the Lord had spoken to Jeroboam through the prophet in ch 11

Jeroboam didn't do anything on his part – it was all God

He must have been wondering how he was going to be made king

And here he is made king without lifting a finger.

**21 And when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah with the tribe of Benjamin, one hundred and eighty thousand chosen [men] who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.**

Rehoboam is doing the same thing here that Solomon did at the end of chapter 11 in our study last week.

He is fighting God's will.

He is assembling his men to win back the 10 tribes

He is trying to take matters into his own hands.

**22 But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, 23 "Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, saying, 24 'Thus says the LORD: "You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me." ' " Therefore they obeyed the word of the LORD, and turned back, according to the word of the LORD.**

God's word to Rehoboam – stop fighting – let it go.

This is My will.

I think a lot of times – we can have similar circumstances as Rehoboam

Where we take it upon ourselves to try to change our circumstances

It could be a trial that we are going through, it could be correction that we have to endure –

Sometimes we have to stop fighting.

**[1Pe 1:6-9 NKJV] 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your**

**faith, [being] much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see [Him], yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of [your] souls.**

During those times that we are grieved by our circumstances, we can rejoice – because we know that the genuineness of our faith is being shaped and molded and is going to be purified before Him.

The good thing is that Rehoboam stopped himself when he was told that it was the Lord.

Now, we move to Jeroboam –

Remember, God made a promise to him

**[1Ki 11:38 NKJV] 38 'Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do [what is] right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you.**

So – let's see what Jeroboam does.

Keep in mind the promise – the kingdom stays with you if you walk in my statutes.

**25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, and dwelt there. Also he went out from there and built Penuel. 26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: 27 "If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah."**

Jeroboam as soon as he becomes king – he realizes that the people still have to go to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices.

Jerusalem is in Judah – where Rehoboam is king

Once Jeroboam got power, he did what almost everyone does; started scheming how to hang on to it.

The same way they turned their back on Rehoboam – they could do the same thing to him.

He is worried that when the people go there – they will see the temple and the palace and want to be ruled by Rehoboam.

So he came up with an idea and sought counsel.

**28 Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O**

**Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!" 29 And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.**

Golden calf – where have we seen this before

Book of Exodus 32

This is the same kind of thing that the Israelites did when Moses was gone too long on the mountain. They weren't sure if Moses was going to come back or not, and they wanted a "god" they could see.

So Aaron makes a golden calf for them and they worship it (Ex 32:4)

Jeroboam and the people of Israel don't think they are worshipping a pagan god – they think they are worshipping what Yahweh looks like.

**30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went [to worship] before the one as far as Dan. 31 He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi.**

God had made it very clear through Moses that the priests were to be of the tribe of Levi.

Jeroboam is going to have trouble filling his priestly jobs though because the Levites are probably going to stick with the Temple in Jerusalem.

So, he is taking it upon himself to select priests

**32 Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that [was] in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made.**

Jeroboam creates his own religious festival

Instead of going to Jerusalem to observe the day of Atonement or the Feast of Tabernacles – he gave the people a counterfeit.

**33 So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.**

Jeroboam took the worship of Yahweh, and turned it into something completely different, though it retained the same name.

It was in fact, nothing like the real thing.

It looked & sounded good.

It was democratic & equal opportunity. (everyone could be a priest – not just the Levites)

It was more convenient & certainly more entertaining.



In a word, it was more appealing –

But It counted for nothing.

Why – because God was not in it.

I had you make a note – that Jeroboam did all of this because he devised all of it in his own heart.

This is how he thought God should be worshipped

The same thing happens today

And it was more appealing to people and convenient to the people and they loved it.

The problem with it was that none of it was from the Lord

It was all false worship

And what are the consequences of his actions

An idolatrous nation followed the footsteps of their leaders

All the kings of Israel were wicked king – not one good king among them

Why did Jerobaom do this –

His first failure was in not heeding the Word & promise of God.

And as usually happens, when we stop trusting in God, we start scheming how

we're going to make it work ourselves. That's what Jeroboam did.

Instead of waiting on God, he began conniving & came up with a plan that brought untold misery & sorrow to millions.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

