

The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #06 | Rehoboam Forsakes Wise Counsel

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

I Kings 11:40 - 12:5

40 Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt, unto Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)

3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

5 And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.

1. King Solomon wanted to kill Jeroboam but he could not because Jeroboam arose and fled into Egypt. Which of the following is a reason why King Solomon could not kill Jeroboam?

- Solomon was afraid of Shishak, King of Egypt, under whose protection Jeroboam hid.
- God had prophesied that Jeroboam will be the king of 10 tribes.

2. What did Jeroboam and the people of Israel want Rehoboam to do for the people in order that Rehoboam is crowned as the king? Tick the correct reason:

- Solomon had put literal, wooden yokes on the people and the people of Israel wanted Rehoboam to remove them
- Solomon's taxes and policies in Israel were heavy and harsh for the people and they wanted Rehoboam to lighten the taxes and ease the strict regulations in the nation

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I Kings 12:6-11

6 And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:

...

10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying... My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

3. What was the advice of Rehoboam's friends?

- Rehoboam should prove to Israel that his little finger was stronger than his father's thigh and loins
- Rehoboam should prove to Israel that he will be stricter than Solomon was, and that he was mightier in strength and abilities than his father
- Rehoboam should release scorpions in the houses of Israel to chastise the people for challenging his authority

4. What does Scripture tell us of the counsel of "old men"?

Proverbs 27:10a

"Thine own friend, and thy f _ _ _ _ _' f _ _ _ _ _ , forsake not"

Job 12:12-13

12 With the a _ _ _ _ _ is wisdom; and in l _ _ _ _ of days understanding.

13 With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.

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I Kings 12:12-15

12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.

13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

14 And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

15 Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the LORD, that he might perform his saying, which the LORD spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

5. What makes a good leader?

- A leader must always speak politely to others.
- A leader must be kind to others.
- A leader must hear the counsel of wise men

6. Which adverb in verse 13 tells us that the Rehoboam did not speak politely to the people of Israel?

7. From Proverbs 18:6-7, what do we call a leader who gets into fights and arguments with his speech?

6 A f_ _ _'s lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

8. From Proverbs 19:20, which verb tells us that a good leader not only listens to good advice, but also accepts and implements the good instruction given to him?

20 Hear counsel, and r_ _ _ _ _ instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.