

The Kings of Judah
Rehoboam: Exchanges Gold for Brass
Lesson III
Written: March 9, 1986

BRIEF REVIEW.

1. HE WAS SOLOMON'S SON.

1. Jesse had 8 sons. 1 Samuel 16:10-11

Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all *thy* children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

1 Samuel 16:10-11

2. David had 18 sons. 2 Samuel 3:2-3
2 Samuel 5:13-16
2 Samuel 8:18

And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmi king of Geshur;

2 Samuel 3:2-3

And David took *him* more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David. And these *be* the names of those that were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, Ibhara also, and Elishua, and Nepheg, and Japhia, And Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphalet.

2 Samuel 5:13-16

And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was over* both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief rulers.

2 Samuel 8:18

1. Solomon had 1 son 1 Chronicles 3:10
2 Chronicles 9:31

Having had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:3) it seems strange that Solomon had only one son. However, if there were others, their names are not recorded in the Bible.

And Solomon's son *was* Rehoboam, Abia his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son,

1 Chronicles 3:10

And Solomon slept with his fathers, and he was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

2 Chronicles 9:31

David was pressured to make choice of one of his sons to succeed him. But apparently that problem was not faced by Solomon. Rehoboam was his successor for we are told of no other. Children are a heritage of the Lord. One day boastful men will discover that had God not allowed it, no child would ever have been conceived and none would ever have been born

11. HE WAS THE SON OF AN AMMORITE WOMAN.

And as we have pointed out, Solomon had been told that as an Israelite he was not to marry an Ammorite.

111. WHEN HE BEGAN TO REIGN, REHOBOAM FACED A PROBLEM.

The problem had been created by Solomon, his father. The taxes were too heavy for the people to carry. Jeroboam complained, and Rehoboam sought for advise.

1V. FIRST, HE ASKED ADVISE FROM THE OLD MEN.

He was given sound advise ,but the young king ignored it.

V. THEN HE SOUGHT ADVISE FROM THE YOUNG MEN, HIS PEERS.

It was then the King made choice of the wrong advise. Then we learned the following:

V1. THE CAUSE WAS OF GOD.

It was a judgment upon him.

V11. AS A RESULT, REHOBOAM PREPARES FOR CIVIL WAR.

Choosing to re-unite his kingdom by his own efforts, he prepared for war. And God said "NO". This battle is not yours. You leave this with me. Vengeance is mine, I will repay. In thinking about that, 1 Corinthians 16:22 came to mind. "Anathama" means accursed. "Maranatha" our Lord cometh. The coming of the Lord will be a glorious event, but it is also a very sobering serious event. Some accounts will only be settled when the Lord Comes.

If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

1 Corinthians 16:22

V111. HE THEN STRENGTHENS HIS KINGDOM.

Notice:2 Chronicles 11:5 "built"

2 Chronicles 11:6 “

2 Chronicles 11:11 fortified

2 Chronicles 11:12 strong

2 Chronicles 11:15 Levites came.

2 Chronicles 11:16-17 The godly remnant of the 10 tribes moved to Judah.

And Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities for defence in Judah.

2 Chronicles 11:5

He built even Bethlehem, and Etam, and Tekoa,

2 Chronicles 11:6

And he fortified the strong holds, and put captains in them, and store of victual, and of oil and wine.

2 Chronicles 11:11

And in every several city *he put* shields and spears, and made them exceeding strong, having Judah and Benjamin on his side.

2 Chronicles 11:12

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

2 Chronicles 11:15

And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers. So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon.

2 Chronicles 11:16-17

What can we learn here? How can we apply this?

Rehoboam was building his kingdom. Outwardly there was progress. Visibly there was growth. 2 Chronicles 11:13-14 first, the priestly tribe -,the Levites left the Northern Kingdom and moved to Jerusalem. 2 Chronicles 11:14 and 2 Chronicles 11:15 tell us why they moved,. because of the Apostasy of Jeroboam. Their worship in the north had become idolatry. And the ministers were ordained of men and not of God.

And the priests and the Levites that *were* in all Israel resorted to him out of all their coasts. 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:

2 Chronicles 11:13-14

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2 Chronicles 11:14

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2 Chronicles 11:15

2 Chronicles 11:16 tells us that AFTER the Levites had moved, people from ALL the 10 tribes moved south also. They moved because they had set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel; whom they could not find in the idolatry at Dan and Bethel. Perhaps we should have read 1 Kings 12:26-33 before going on. (The history of the calves)

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2 Chronicles 11:16

And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. 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. And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. 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. 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.
1 Kings 12:26-33

So we can see why ,sincere, godly people moved to Judah.
WE WANT TO EMPHASIZE :

2 Chronicles 11:16, they moved because they wanted God! May I apply that. When Christians "move" they should determine before hand why they are doing so. Are they moving for spiritual good or for material gain? See. Amos 4:6-11. Remember what we have learned about those who will to be rich-they fall. I have seen Christian families move away from an area where they could attend and be part of a good Bible believing church, and by moving to an area where there was no fellowship, they have lost their family to the world, the flesh, and the Devil. One brother said to me after a sad experience, with most of his children: "I wish I had never moved"

And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers.

2 Chronicles 11:16

I think there is a second application to this. People move from denomination to denomination, from church to church., If you are a believer be sure you move BECAUSE you want God. There are sincere, godly people in modernistic churches who are being awakened to the fact that apostasy -a departure from the faith, has entered their churches. And because they want God they move to evangelical Churches especially charismatic churches. And so our ranks suddenly increase. But there is a warning in this story for us.

2 Chronicles 11:17 Rehoboam, Judah, the Levites and the remnant from the North walked with God for three years, only for three years. It didn't take long for them to backslide. And here is an old mans advise: If our churches do not become PRAYING CHURCHES, they will soon cease being pentecostal churches. If our churches do not continue in the faith they will soon become Apostate churches. We need less program and more prayer!

So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong, three years: for three years they walked in the way of David and Solomon.

2 Chronicles 11:17

1X. IN HIS PROSPERITY, REHOBOAM FAILS.

1. 2Chronicles 11:20-22 18 wives.
60 concubines.
28 sons
60 daughters.
- 2 2 Chronicles 11:23 he desired more wives!
3. 2 Chronicles 12:1-5 he forsook God
cf 1 Kings 14:21-24

And after her he took Maachah the daughter of Absalom; which bare him Abijah, and Attai, and Ziza, and Shelomith. And Rehoboam loved Maachah the daughter of Absalom above all his wives and his concubines: (for he took eighteen wives, and threescore concubines; and begat twenty and eight sons, and threescore daughters.) And Rehoboam made Abijah the son of Maachah the chief, *to be* ruler among his brethren: for *he thought* to make him king.

2Chronicles 11:20-22

And he dealt wisely, and dispersed of all his children throughout all the countries of Judah and Benjamin, unto every fenced city: and he gave them victual in abundance. And he desired many wives.

2 Chronicles 11:23

And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him. And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of king Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD, With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen: and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubims, the Sukkiims, and the Ethiopians. And he took the fenced cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem. Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak.

2 Chronicles 12:1-5

And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

1 Kings 14:21-24

Thus we learn that the failure of Rehoboam was in two areas of his life .First- 2 Chronicles 11:21-23, what would be called today, his private life.

Then in 2 Chronicles 12:1 his public life.

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2 Chronicles 11:21-23

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2 Chronicles 12:1

The world has a good deal of advise in these areas. Our cabinet ministers, our high office-officials have been brained washed nto believing that public-life has no connection with private life. "As long as one does ones job it matters not how one lives."

That kind of thinking may be acceptable to the world, but it is not acceptable for a believer. It is my considered opinion that ones private life is more important IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, than is ones public life. Ones public life does not count for much without a dedicated private life. As I have heard G.S.McLean say on occasions; "What matters is not how loudly you sing, how rapidly you clapp your hands or how high you jump at church, but what really counts is how you walk and conduct yourself when you arrive at home." You cannot, with any force of conviction, preach to the ungodly about ungodliness if you are not walking with God at home. How can a mother teach her child not to smoke, if she smokes? How can a father teach his boy not to drink if he drinks?

When Lot tried to warn his family that judgment was coming-they mocked him. His talk was of no avail because his walk was not in step with God, daily at home. Lord, dear Lord, help me live and walk with you at home, daily is my prayer.

Rehobaom did not restrain public evil. When he had security, when he had prosperity. when he had money, when all was going well for him, that is when he forsook the Lord. He could not handle prosperity and few can. In smooth waters he forsook the Lord and his sheep followed him. What a sad, sad story.

X. GOD SENDS A PROPHET, AND AFTER THE SERMON,REHOBAM REPENTS.

2 Chronicles 12:5 the prophet is named.

Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and *to* the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak.

2 Chronicles 12:5

2 Chronicles 12:11-12 Rehoboam responds.

And when the king entered into the house of the LORD, the guard came and fetched them, and brought them again into the guard chamber. And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, that he would not destroy *him* altogether: and also in Judah things went well.

2 Chronicles 12:11-12

Trevor Harris said: he is weary of seeing people come to the altar just as they are and then leave the altar just as they came. David Christie spoke some years ago on the verse in Matthew 13:20 " "joy receiveth the word ,yet hath no root in himself and is soon offended " His remark: "they come down the isle with a smile. They come as if it were a joke. There are no tears and there is no deep repentance."

But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

Matthew 13:20

Rehoboams changed heart was short-lived. In a moment of trouble he was ready to pray. In a moment of trouble he suddenly became religious, but as suddenly as came his conversion, so suddenly it vanished away! It was a very shallow experience. And I fear we are witnessing much of the same today. There is so much lightness about the things of God that often when we leave the house of God-we feel more like having been at a carnival , a circus, than having been in the solemn, sobering presence of God. Two years ago I went back to Trossachs camp and in every service they had clowns, painted faces performing. There was much laughing in every service but not much else! To me it was light and treacherous. See Zephaniah 3:4 It grieved my spirit. Where is the blessedness we knew when first we met the Lord?

Her prophets *are* light *and* treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

Zephaniah 3:4

X1 REHOBOAM EXCHANGES GOLD FOR BRASS.

2 Chronicles 12:9,10

So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made. Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed *them* to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house.

2 Chronicles 12:9,10

I will not attempt to apply this as I feel it should be applied. But clowns in church? Is that not exchanging gold for brass? Light meaningless choruses for solid spiritual songs and hymns? Is that not exchanging gold for brass? Suppers and socials and no longer the waiting in the prayer-rooms? Is that not exchanging gold for brass? How to dress, how to co-ordinate clothes, how to make a fair show in the flesh? Is that not exchanging gold for brass? Need I say more? The church is guilty, very guilty of this sin.

X11. FINALLY WE HAVE THE KEY TO HIS FAILURE.

2 Chronicles 12:14

He did evil because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord. This was his epitaph. The final word he who could have been such a great blessing in Judah became a failure. We repeat a sad, sad story.

And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.

2 Chronicles 12:14