

Kings of Israel and Judah – Rehoboam and Jeroboam **I Kgs. 11:26-14:31**

Thesis: To help us learn from the mistakes of Rehoboam and Jeroboam.

Introduction:

- A. Rehoboam was the king in Israel after Solomon died.
 - 1. He was the son of Solomon.
 - 2. He is even mentioned in the lineage of Christ (Mt. 1:7).

- B. During his reign, the kingdom is divided.
 - 1. Rehoboam reigns over the tribes of Judah and Benjamin.
 - 2. Jeroboam reigns over the other 10 tribes.

I. Rehoboam received bad advice from his advisors (12:1-15).

A. Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, was king of all Israel before the nation was divided.

- 1. Solomon had been very rough on all the people of Israel.
- 2. The people, including Jeroboam, come to Rehoboam and ask that he would make their burdens lighter than Solomon (12:3-5).

B. Notice the advice that Rehoboam received (12:6-11).

- 1. He was given advice from two different groups.
 - a. Men who advised Solomon (12:6-8)
 - b. Men his own age (12:8-11)
- 2. He refused to listen to the advice of the older men (12:8, 12-15).
- 3. Because he followed the advice of the young men, the people rebelled against him (12:16-24).

C. We, today, need to be careful as to whom we get our advice.

- 1. When we need to know something, we need to go to someone that knows something about it.
 - a. Example: you would not ask me about car trouble.
 - b. You would talk to a mechanic.
- 2. On important spiritual matters, we need to go to the right place to find the answer.
 - a. That place is God.
 - b. I was once asked: “What is the best way to study the Bible?”
 - 1) Answer: “Read it.”
 - 2) Far too many times we go to the wrong place to get answers to spiritual questions.
 - a) We have many books about the Bible.
 - b) To get a God-given answer, we must go to His word.
 - 3) The wrong place is man.
 - 4) It is not wrong to ask a man, but make sure that they are speaking from the word of God, not the word of man.
- 3. There is a reason why the elders are the overseers of the church.

- a. I Tim. 3:6 - not a novice
- b. The elders should be very knowledgeable in the Bible.

D. We need to be careful who we get our advice from.

II. There is a very important need for unity.

A. Ahijah had already prophesied that Jeroboam would become king over 10 of the tribes of Israel.

1. The illustration that Ahijah used was to tear the coat of Jeroboam into 12 pieces.
 - a. Jeroboam took 10 of the pieces for himself.
 - b. Rehoboam was left with only 2 pieces; symbolizing 2 tribes.
2. The prophecy was given by Ahijah in 11:29-39.
3. This was fulfilled in I Kgs. 12:15-24 (esp. 15).

B. After Rehoboam follows the bad advice from the young men, the people rebelled against him.

1. They were not united as a country.
2. Because of this, 10 tribes became their own nation.
 - a. This is the nation of Israel.
 - b. They were the northern kingdom.
 - c. Jeroboam became king of Israel after this divide.
3. Rehoboam was left with only 2 tribes.
 - a. Only Judah and Benjamin remained with him.
 - b. They were referred to as the southern kingdom.

C. From Jeroboam and Rehoboam, we learn from this about the destructive power of a lack of unity.

1. A whole nation was divided because of one person.
2. A lack of unity will destroy the whole.
 - a. Lk. 11:14-18 - And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marveled. {15} But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." {16} Others, testing Him, sought from Him a sign from heaven. {17} But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls. {18} If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub."
 - b. Rehoboam and Jeroboam, and the divided kingdom that followed them, teach us that unity is destructive.
3. We, as the Lord's people, need to be united.
 - a. Jn. 17:20-23 (Jesus prayed for unity among His disciples) - I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; {21} that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. {22} And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just

as We are one: {23} I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

- b. The church needs to be united.
 - 1) Rom. 12:4-5 - For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, {5} so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
 - 2) Gal. 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
 - 3) I Cor. 12:12-27

III. Neither Jeroboam nor Rehoboam were faithful to God during their reign.

A. Notice the unfaithfulness of Jeroboam.

- 1. Jeroboam creates golden calves so to worship (12:25-33).
 - a. He does this so that Israel will not go to Jerusalem to worship God.
 - b. He is afraid that if they do, they will return to Rehoboam and serve him (12:26-27).
 - c. Jeroboam also made shrines and established a feast (notice: “like the feast that was in Judah” – 12:32).
 - d. This was all done so that Israel would not return to Rehoboam.
 - e. He would rather have his people serve idols than to return to Rehoboam.
- 2. Jeroboam sends his wife to Ahijah, the prophet of God (14:1-18).
 - a. He wants to know what will happen to his sick son, Abijah.
 - b. She tries to deceive Ahijah by acting like another woman.
 - c. However, God had already told Ahijah that it was Jeroboam’s wife.
 - d. Ahijah tells Jeroboam’s wife that her son is going to die when she enters the city to Tirzah.
 - e. Also, the kingdom is going to be taken from Jeroboam because of his unfaithfulness to God (14:15-16).
 - f. Jeroboam then dies after reigning 22 years over Israel (14:19-20).

B. Notice the unfaithfulness of Rehoboam.

- 1. The evil of Rehoboam (14:21-24)
 - a. The people were very evil in the sight of God.
 - b. II Chr. 12:14 - And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the LORD.
- 2. The death of Rehoboam (14:29-31)

Conclusion:

- I. We need to be careful who we get our advice from.
- II. There is a very important need for unity.
- III. Neither Jeroboam nor Rehoboam were faithful to God during their reign.