

Rehoboam: Be Careful What You Seek After

September 15, 2019



Open: What are important things you're seeking in your life? Why?

Read & Discuss: 2 Chronicles 10:1-19

1. Early in his reign, Rehoboam was asked by his subjects to lighten the expectations of work that Rehoboam's father Solomon had put on them (vv. 1-4). Rehoboam sought advice on how to respond to this request. What does this suggest about Rehoboam (vv. 6, 9)?
2. How would you summarize the advice of the older men versus the advice of the younger men (vv. 7, 10-11)? What would have been attractive about the advice of the younger men?
3. What are some ways we tend to want others to view us positively? How might such desires shape the things we do or say? How do we know when these desires become inappropriate? How do such pursuits stand in contrast to David's sentiment in Psalm 145?
4. From 2 Chronicles 10:16-19, what were the consequences of Rehoboam's actions? How have you seen the desire to be thought of highly end up leading to negative consequences?

Read & Discuss: 2 Chronicles 12:1-14

5. Although there was a short period in which Judah did seek after God, Rehoboam eventually "abandoned the law of the LORD" (12:1) and God sent Egypt against Jerusalem. However, after hearing the prophet Shemaiah's warning (v. 5), Rehoboam "humbled himself" and said, "The LORD is righteous" (v. 6). How were these words an expression of humility? What does God's response to Rehoboam tell us about God with regard to sin and repentance?
6. A consequence of Rehoboam's sin was that his gold was taken and he had to use shields made of bronze (vv. 9-10). How have you experienced or observed making up our own rules (as Rehoboam did in 12:1), lead to having less than God's best in our lives—even when grace might still be present (as in v. 12)?
7. Verse 14 tells us that Rehoboam "did evil, for he did not set his heart to seek the LORD." What does this tell us about the importance of paying attention to the desires of our hearts? What would it look like to set one's heart seek the Lord?

Apply: What will you do this week to cultivate a heart that seeks after God's honor and ways?

Pray: Pray that we would be people who seek after God will all our hearts, desiring that His name (not our own) be praised and that His rules (not our own) be followed.

2 Chronicles 10:1-19. ¹ Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. ² And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt. ³ And they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all Israel came and said to Rehoboam, ⁴ "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you." ⁵ He said to them, "Come to me again in three days." So the people went away.

⁶ Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?" ⁷ And they said to him, "If you will be good to this people and please them and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever." ⁸ But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him. ⁹ And he said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your father put on us?'" ¹⁰ And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus shall you speak to the people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us'; thus shall you say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's thighs. ¹¹ And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'"

¹² So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, "Come to me again the third day." ¹³ And the king answered them harshly; and forsaking the counsel of the old men, ¹⁴ King Rehoboam spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions." ¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by God that the LORD might fulfill his word, which he spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

¹⁶ And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What portion have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Each of you to your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So all Israel went to their tents. ¹⁷ But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah. ¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and the people of Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam quickly mounted his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. ¹⁹ So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. (ESV)

2 Chronicles 12:1-14. ¹ When the rule of Rehoboam was established and he was strong, he abandoned the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him. ² In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem ³ with 1,200 chariots and 60,000 horsemen. And the people were without number who came with him from Egypt—Libyans, Sukkiim, and Ethiopians. ⁴ And he took the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem. ⁵ Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and to the princes of Judah, who had gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said to them, "Thus says the LORD, 'You abandoned me, so I have abandoned you to the hand of Shishak.'" ⁶ Then the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is righteous." ⁷ When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah: "They have humbled themselves. I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance, and my wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. ⁸ Nevertheless, they shall be servants to him, that they may know my service and the service of the kingdoms of the countries."

⁹ So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. He took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house. He took away everything. He also took away the shields of gold that Solomon had made, ¹⁰ and King Rehoboam made in their place shields of bronze and committed them to the hands of the officers of the guard, who kept the door of the king's house. ¹¹ And as often as the king went into the house of the LORD, the guard came and carried them and brought them back to the guardroom. ¹² And when he humbled himself the wrath of the LORD turned from him, so as not to make a complete destruction. Moreover, conditions were good in Judah. ¹³ So King Rehoboam grew strong in Jerusalem and reigned. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city that the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel to put his name there. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite. ¹⁴ And he did evil, for he did not set his heart to seek the LORD. (ESV)