



“Rehoboam – On The Rocks”
EPIC FAIL

Small Group Plan

I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish?

-- Solomon (Ecclesiastes 2:18-19)

We now know the answer to Solomon’s question. His son, the next ruler of Israel, was foolish. Rehoboam was a thoughtless, reckless, foolish leader whose leadership style fractured the nation. His thoughtlessness began early in his reign and continued until he had to flee for his life.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- What was some good advice that you were given growing up?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

THEY ASKED FOR HELP

1 Kings 12:1-5

¹ Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to make him king. ² When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard this (he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), he returned from Egypt. ³ So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him: ⁴ “Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you.” ⁵ Rehoboam

answered, "Go away for three days and then come back to me." So the people went away.

- In view of all the amazing things that occurred during Solomon's "golden age" what does this story reveal about his reign?
- Is the request from the people for a lighter load reasonable? Explain.
- How is Rehoboam's initial reaction, "go away for three days," a wise response?

HE SOUGHT ADVICE

1 Kings 12:6-11

⁶ *Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked.* ⁷ *They replied, "If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants."* ⁸ *But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him.* ⁹ *He asked them, "What is your advice? How should we answer these people who say to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us'?"* ¹⁰ *The young men who had grown up with him replied, "These people have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter.' Now tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist.* ¹¹ *My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'"*

- Age doesn't always guarantee wisdom, but why was Rehoboam's second choice to consult his elders also a good decision?
- Is it significant that the elder's advice matched the request from the people (cf. v. 4 and v. 7)? Explain.
- What were the elders actually advising Rehoboam to do?
- How would you describe the blind spots of someone who grew up in luxury like Rehoboam?
- What was the attitude behind the advice of Rehoboam's friends?

HE REJECTED WISDOM

12:12-15

¹² *Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, as the king had said, "Come back to me in three days."* ¹³ *The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders,* ¹⁴ *he followed the advice of the young men*

and said, "My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions." ¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people, for this turn of events was from the LORD, to fulfill the word the LORD had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite.

- Why did Rehoboam choose the advice of his young friends?
- What did he hope to gain with this heavy-handed leadership style?

HE DIVIDED THE KINGDOM

1 Kings 12:16-19

¹⁶ When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: "What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse's son? To your tents, Israel! Look after your own house, David!" So the Israelites went home. ¹⁷ But as for the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them. ¹⁸ King Rehoboam sent out Adoniram, who was in charge of forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam, however, managed to get into his chariot and escape to Jerusalem. ¹⁹ So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

- What difference did the people see between David and Rehoboam's leadership that brought such a quick and violent reaction (v. 16)?
- Who was most responsible for the breakup of Israel – Rehoboam, Jeroboam, or Solomon?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

LEADING PEOPLE

- Jesus models the best leadership style – Love God, Love People.
- How would you define or describe the Vision of Prestoncrest – Passion for God, Compassion for People?
- How does Passion flow into and empower Compassion?

SEEKING WISDOM

- When you have an important choice to make, do you usually seek advice? Why or why not?
- Today – how do you determine whether advice is good or bad?
- If you do seek advice, with whom do you usually talk?
- Close in prayer, thanking God for the leaders of our church. Ask God to give them the wisdom of servant leadership.