

Listening to the wrong advice—King Rehoboam

1 Kings 12:1-19 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. 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: 9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter? 10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou *it* lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, 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. 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. 16 So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither *have we* inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents. 17 But *as for* the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. 18 Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who *was* over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made

speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

Rehoboam means "a people has enlarged"

Solomon had imposed heavy taxes upon the people which was a heavy yoke. When Rehoboam became King, the people asked that he would lighten the burden. They were being taxed heavily by his father King Solomon.

The people wanted to serve Rehoboam, but the taxes were unreasonably high, and they were crushing the people.

① King Rehoboam gave audience to the grievances of the people.

a) A leader has to consider and listen the challenges and difficulties people face. He is a leader for the people. He ought to be a servant-leader.

② He asked for time from the people to look into this matter. This was also a wise thing Rehoboam did in addition to give them audience. He wanted time to consult and think over his decision. He had up to three days.

a) He consulted the older men that advised and counseled his Father King Solomon on how to answer the people.

b) This was a good thing—to consult the elders (ly). He asked those that were older and with experience for advice. He did not start with the younger and inexperienced.

c) The older men that had seen and been with Solomon advised Rehoboam to answer the people with good words—meaning he was going to lighten the heavy burden of taxation off of them. The people were not asking not to be taxed at all, but rather a lightening and softening of the weight of the tax.

d) The people also mentioned the benefit of him reducing or lightening the taxation burden and the old men that stood before his father said the same thing as well. If he was considerate and reduced this heavy yoke off the people, they would serve him forever.

e) Rather than taking the advice of the older men he went to first, he forsook their counsel and advice and went to ask the younger men.

f) They gave him advice that had no experience backing up. This advice was going to forever transform the Kingdom—negatively. This caused the people to rebel and caused the Kingdom to divide or split.

- i) This was all the doing of Rehoboam not listening to counsel of the older men.
- ii) It's important **who** we listen to. Rehoboam listened to the wrong folks—the younger men who stood before him and he answered the people roughly forsaking the counsel of the older men.
- iii) He communicated that he would “ADD” to their yoke and rather than chastise them with whips, he was going to step it up and chastise them with Scorpions. This was brutal communication.
- iv) He did not hearken to the older men or the people. This is one of the stupidest counsels a person could follow. This advice was sick and if Rehoboam had half a brain, he would have detected this flawed counsel.

Bad advice can cost you a lot. We need to be careful who we let in to advise us.