

Israel: Drive through History Pt 2

2 Chronicles 10:1-19

- It's amazing how people live as if whatever they've done while they were alive ceases once they have died, you may be gone from the scene but what you've done often lives on, and we see this in the life of Rehoboam Solomon's son and heir to the throne of Israel. After Rehoboam coronation we see a problem that had nothing to do with him but his dead father rear its head, as Jeroboam is going to come back home to claim what he believes is his by right!

V1-19

- **V1-5** God had promised David and Solomon that as long as their descendants obeyed Him then there would always be one of their descendants on the throne of Israel. But Solomon has disobeyed the Lord, so much so that God said He would rip the Kingdom from him and his line, but for David's sake he could keep a tribe or two, and so that is coming to pass right here. When we read about Jeroboam we were told that he was very talented, capable, gifted, and industrious, but as we will soon see he's also cocky, conceited, and rebellious, also.
- It's interesting that this all takes place at "**Shechem**" for this is where Abraham worshipped in **Gen 12:6**, where Jacob built an altar in **Gen 33:18-20**, and where Joseph was buried in **Josh 24:32**, so there is rich Jewish history here, also its geographically in the center of all the northern tribes, of which Jeroboam is from, so they see this as an opportunity to leverage the new King as he is in a position of weakness having to meet these ten tribes on their territory.
- Solomon was a great King but his greatness came at a cost, although Israel prospered it seems not everyone was completely happy and satisfied as the Queen of Sheba thought, for he had taxed the northern tribes severely to make Jerusalem and the southern Kingdom look good. The northern elders tell Rehoboam that they will offer their allegiance to him and serve him if he would give them some relief from the heavy taxation that Solomon had placed upon them.
- **1 Sam 8:10-19** God had told Israel what would happen if they decided to have a King rule over them instead of a Theocracy where God alone rules, but after warning them they still wanted a King and now they know what it is like to have a flawed man ruling over them and they don't like it. Rehoboam responds by telling them that they will have his answer in three days. V6-7 wisely Rehoboam asks counsel of the older elders who also counseled his father as to what to do, and when it came to business matters they seemed to have advised Solomon well as the Kingdom flourished financially, and it was without wars externally and internally.

- They tell Rehoboam to win the people over with kindness, they knew he didn't possess the wisdom that his father had so show the people that what you lack in wisdom you make up with empathy and you will win the hearts of the people and they will follow you, this seems like good advice. Interestingly David his grandfather loved the people and would risk his life for their welfare, Solomon his father loved himself and used the people to further his agenda, Rehoboam as we'll see doesn't serve the people or have an agenda, he's just an imbecile with privilege.
- **V8-11** instead of listening to the elders who told him to be a "**servant to the people**" and the people will serve you, Rehoboam rejects their counsel and goes to the men he had grown up with **A.K.A. "His boys"** knowing they would tell him exactly what he wanted to hear and they do. Before we move on to the inevitable, I must ask Who and what is missing from this equation, at the start of their reign both David and Solomon sought the Lord as to what to do as King, Rehoboam asked everyone except the One Who decides the fate of everything "**The Lord**".
- It shows he didn't have a heart for the Lord as he never asked for His counsel, because he had no intention of doing God's will, therefore he didn't even want to hear it. Sadly I've see so-called Christian leaders take the same Rehoboam approach and do terrible damage to the work of the Lord and then walk away from the mess they made leaving behind the poison and debris that will take years to remove. They tell him to tell Jeroboam and the northern tribes that what Solomon did to them is nothing that he was going to increase the yoke to unbearable proportion
- **V12-15** Rehoboam didn't listen to wise counsel and the result was predictable as the people are upset, but **V15** says that God orchestrated all these events because of what Solomon did at the end of his life > **1Kings 11:9-13**. **V16-17** the northern Kingdom reject Rehoboam as King and accept Rehoboam as their King, this is the beginning of the northern Kingdom as it starts from rebellion and it's only going to get worse as it increases later on into outright idolatry.
- **V18-19** Rehoboam has Judah and Benjamin, while Jeroboam has the other **10** tribes, and to show how foolish Rehoboam is, as he doesn't take their rebellion seriously, he sends a tax collector to the northern tribes to collect taxes, and instead of collecting what's due he gets a face full of rocks thrown at him as they stone him to death, now Rehoboam takes them seriously after someone had to lose their life, isn't this typical of leaders, once someone is seriously hurt or die then that's when it gets their attention as to how serious the situation is. So he gets on his horse and bolts out running back to Jerusalem to safety, what a start to a doomed rulership.