

1 Kings 12

Fear the Lord

I. Mutiny

1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to **make him king.**

- **New King Rehoboam:** Solomon's foolish son...

Ecclesiastes 2:18 [Read] Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I **must leave it to the man who will come after me. 19 And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?** Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity. 20 Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun. 21 For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he **must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it.** This also is vanity and a great evil. 22 For what has man for all his labor, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun? 23 For all his days are sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity.

- **Solomon's fear:** Leaving everything to a fool

2 So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it (he was still in Egypt, for he had **fled from the presence** of King Solomon and had been dwelling in Egypt) 3 that they sent and called him.

- **Jeroboam flees to Egypt:**

1. Hears Solomon is dead
2. Hears Rehoboam is King
3. Called back to Israel

3b...Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, 4 **"Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service** of your father, and his **heavy yoke** which he put on us, and we will serve you."

- Solomon began using people of Israel for forced labor instead of foreigners
- **Israel demanded a king...**

1 Samuel 8:9 [Read] Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them." 10 So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who asked him for a king. 11 And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will **take your sons** and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. 12 He will **appoint captains** over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will **set some to plow** his ground and reap his harvest, and **some to make his weapons** of war and equipment for his chariots. 13 He will **take your daughters** to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. 14 And he will **take the best of your fields**, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. 15 **He will take a tenth** of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. 16 And **he will take your male servants,**

your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. 17 He will take a tenth of your sheep. And **you will be his servants**. 18 And **you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves**, and the Lord will not hear you in that day." 19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "**No, but we will have a king over us**, 20 that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." 21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the Lord. 22 So the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king."

Jeroboam to Rehoboam: "Lighten up on us and we will serve you"

5 So [Rehoboam] said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed. 6 Then King Rehoboam **consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon** while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise me to answer these people?"

- **Consulted Elders:** Good move...if we listen

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.

Proverbs 11:14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days.

Proverbs 24:6 ...by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 27:9 Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.

Holy Spirit the greatest Councilor. God also uses people...watch their lives!

- **Solomon's Elders advice to Q.:** Should I lighten up?

7 And [the elders] spoke to him, saying, "If you will **be a servant** to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

- **Godly advice from elders:** Experience both successes/failures...

Proverbs 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, And the splendor of old men is their gray head.

Proverbs 16:31 The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, If it is found in the way of righteousness.

Job 12:12 Wisdom is with aged men, And with length of days, understanding.

- **Godly advice from Elders?**

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. 2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools **pours forth foolishness.**

8 But [Rehoboam] rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.

Rehoboam rejects wisdom listens to mouth of fools “pouring out foolishness”

- Rejects advice of his father’s elders
- Turns to his ne’er do well friends, young punks who want a position

9 And [Jeroboam] said to them, “**What advice do you give?** How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, ‘Lighten the yoke which your father put on us?’” 10 Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, “Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us’—thus you shall say to them: ‘My little finger shall be thicker than my father’s waist! 11 And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!’”

▪ **Say this...**

1. You said my father was hard?
2. He used whips to keep you in line?
3. I will use scourges [lit. Scorpions]

Know it all’s...

We know many persons who are always doing a great deal, and yet do nothing; busy people, people to the front in every movement, persons who could set the whole world right, **but are not right themselves.** [Spurgeon] [This is the way you should...]

▪ **Bad friends can ruin a life...**

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: “**Evil company corrupts good habits.**” [Cancer]

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise men **will be wise,** But the companion of fools will be destroyed. [David/Jonathan]

- Do we have friends that tell us hard truth

Proverbs 15:31 The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise. 32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. 33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.

- **Elder’s advice:** Win their hearts with kindness and wisdom...

1. Serve them
2. Speak well to them

- **Punks advice:** Subdue them with fear

1. Threaten them
2. Intimidate them

12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had directed, saying, "Come back to me the third day." 13 Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him; 14 and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!"

- Crickets

15 So the king did not listen to the people; for the **turn of events was from the Lord**, that He might fulfill His word, which the Lord had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

- Behind the scenes the Lord is working...
- **The turn of events was from the Lord:** Pre-destined
 1. Knew Jeroboam would confront Rehoboam
 2. Knew Rehoboam would listen to rebels
 3. Knew Israel would not listen to Rehoboam and they all acted in free-will

16 Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!"

- What share to we have with David; i.e. Rehoboam the line of David
- We have not claim to the son of Jesse [David's father]

16b...So Israel departed to their tents. 17 But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah.

- Israel goes North
- Judah goes South

Kingdom Divided: Predestined by God utilizing man's free-will

18 Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the revenue; but all Israel stoned him with stones, and he died. Therefore King Rehoboam mounted his chariot in haste to flee to Jerusalem.

- **Rehoboam:** Attempts to exercise authority over those who rebelled

- **Response:** Stone his tax collector to death

Punk's advice: How'd that work for ya?

19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

- **Divided Kingdom 3000 years now united:**

1. May 14th 1948 United once again
2. Millennium Israel will be United completely

20 Now it came to pass when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they sent for him and called him to the congregation, and made him king over all Israel. There was none who followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

- **Split nation with 2 Kings**

1. **Rehoboam son of Solomon:** Judah the Southern Kingdom w/Temple.
2. **Jeroboam not of David:** Israel the Northern Kingdom

21 And when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah with the tribe of Benjamin, one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

- **Rehoboam tries to thwart God's will...**

1. Gathers Judah
2. Gathers Benjamin [floater]
3. Still many followers...**180,000 mighty warriors**

But it was not to be...

22 But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying, 23 "Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, saying, 24 'Thus says the Lord: "You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, **for this thing is from Me.**"'"

- **Prophet Shemaiah:**

1. Tell Rehoboam: "**King of Judah**"

NOTE: Throughout the Word God would condescend to call them each by name

2. They are still your brothers, all children of Israel [Jacob]
3. Go home...this is the Lord speaking

You shall not do what you set out to do...for this thing is from Me

Acts 16:6 ...when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were **forbidden by the Holy Spirit** to preach the word in Asia. [To get him to Macedonia]

- **Door closed:** Prevented from own will to do God's will.
- Sometimes Satan will try to stop us

1 Thesolonians 2:18 ...we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.

- How do we know God if Satan? Learn to listen
- In any case...

Romans 8:28 ...we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

- You will not go against your brothers: **This thing is of Me**

If you do this know for sure you are disobeying Me

24b...Therefore **they obeyed the word of the Lord**, and turned back, **according to the word of the Lord.**

- Amazing unexpected obedience

SUMMARY Mutiny: Predestined by the LORD utilizing man's free will

II. Sin of Jeroboam: Sin that caused Israel to Sin

25 Then Jeroboam built **Shechem** in the mountains of Ephraim, and dwelt there. Also he went out from there and built **Penuel**.

Interesting Jeroboam chose these two places

- **Shechem:** Lit. Back/Shoulder Jeroboam's Home. Capital of Northern Kingdom
- **Penuel:** Lit. Facing God Jeroboam's Second Home

...After Jeroboam turns his back on God he will have to face God

26 And Jeroboam **said in his heart**, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: 27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah."

- **All sin begins with self/pride:** Said in his heart?

1 Kings 12:33 [Religion Jeroboam...] **had devised in his own heart.**

- **Pride...**I may lose my power

1. I'm building cities for myself

2. I'm gaining following for myself
3. I'm getting comfortable in my new situation...

What can I do to keep "my" power? Dangerous question.
Question asked by Religious leaders before crucifying Jesus

28 Therefore [Jeroboam] **asked advice**, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. **Here are your gods, O Israel**, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!"

- **Asked advice:** Lit. "Therefore the king took counsel of himself"

There was no point in asking advice for this evil purpose. Jeroboam wanted advice on how to do a bad thing in the best way. [Guzik]

Q. How can I keep the people from leaving me and going to Jerusalem?

A. Give the people an compromise: Make it easy

1. Convince them they are okay with God False Security
2. Ask Jesus into your heart w/out repentance False Conversion
3. Create a comfortable place of worship

**Make two gold calves and call them YHWH
These are your "God[s]" who brought you out of Egypt**

- Repeats Aarons words from Exodus 32: Now twice the sin

Always to be known as "Sin of Jeroboam": Led to Israel's exile in Assyria

1 Kings 13:34 ...this thing was the **sin of the house of Jeroboam**, so as to **exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth**. [Sin leading to destruction]

- **False worship is never accepted by God no matter how sincere**

Hosea 8:5 Your calf is rejected...**6 the calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces.**

29 And [Jeroboam] set up one [calf] in Bethel, and the other [calf] he put in Dan. 30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan.

- **Set up calves in Bethel** [lit. House of God] in South and Dan in North
- God said to worship in Jerusalem

Deuteronomy 12:13 Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see; 14 but in the place which the **Lord chooses**, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.

31 He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class

of people, who were not of the sons of Levi.

- God said Priest must be from the tribe of Levi

New Improved Religion: Easy believes. No hard teachings. No truth/No Salvation

- **Convenient:** Don't have to go all the way to Jerusalem
- **Shrines on High Places:** As Pagans did
- **Priests:** Anyone could be a priest except sons of Levi as Law commands.

2 Chronicles 13:9 [King Abijah to Jeroboam just before his demise] Have you not **cast out the priests of the Lord**, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and **made for yourselves priests**, like the peoples of other lands, so that whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams may be a priest of things that are not gods?

- Cast our priests and prophets from the land...
- Amos prophesied against house of Jeroboam...**carried away by Assyria**

Amos 7:17... You shall die in a defiled land; And Israel shall surely be led away captive From his own land."

- False Worship. False location. False Priests. False Prophets. False ceremonies...

**People were deceived into believing they were okay with God
Would be pulled in herds to the land of Assyria with fish hooks in mouth!**

32 Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made.

- **Installed High Places:** More convenient:
 1. **Feasts** "like the feasts" in Judah
 2. **Sacrifices** "like the sacrifices" in Judah
 3. **Priests** "like the priests" in Judah

2 Chronicles 11:14 [True priests leave Northern Kingdom]...the Levites left their common-lands and their possessions and came to Judah and Jerusalem, **for Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them from serving as priests to the Lord.**

Nothing worse than cults that look so much like the truth...but in actuality are Satanic

- JW's, Mormons, 7th Day Adventists, Roman Catholics
 - **"Just like the real thing" except...**
 1. Different Spirit
 2. Different Gospel
 3. Different [another] Jesus
 4. Different destination
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2 Corinthians 7:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For **Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.** 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

- **Look/sound good:** Inside bones of dead men
 1. False Apostles
 2. False Workers disguised as the good guys
- **Unsaved/un-regenerated.** Trying to reach God by Tower of Babel not Grace
 1. Saturday or Sunday "Worshippers"
 2. **Monday-Friday:** liars, fornicators, adulterers, thieves, arrogant hypocrites

Colossians 2:23 [Their [religion has...] an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

- **Different Gospel:** Only two; i.e. Works or Grace
- **Looks the same but different Jesus.** One who cannot save

33 So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month **which he had devised in his own heart.** And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.

- **Feast of Tabernacles** changed from 15th day or 7th month to 15th of 8th month
- Beware those so-called religious teachers who do not know/use Bible
- Make things up from own heart; feelings, what they think, what you want to hear

Devised in their own heart?

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is **deceitful above all things,** And **desperately wicked;** Who can know it?

Jeremiah 23:16 Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; **They speak a vision of their own heart,** Not from the mouth of the Lord.

- Jeroboam deceived those who did not know the Word
- **God gives us true teachers:** Those who point us to Christ not themselves

Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some **pastors and teachers,** 12 for the **equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should **no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men,** in the

cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may **grow up** in all things into Him who is the head—**Christ**

**People will try to deceive with words from their own heart...
Know you're Bible and you won't be deceived**