

2 Chronicles 10-12**7-31-22****Sun. Morning**

Timeline

Ezra returns and writes to instill hope in the Jews

1, 2, Chronicles show God's grace and His amazing plan of hope for salvation in the Messiah.

Romans 15:4 (NASB95)

4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

2 Chronicles 9:30–31 (NASB95)

30 Solomon reigned forty years in Jerusalem over all Israel.

31 And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David; and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

2 Chronicles 10:1–2 (NASB95)

1 Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.

2 When Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was in Egypt where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon), Jeroboam returned from Egypt.

1 Kings 11:28–31 (NASB95)

28 Now the man Jeroboam was a valiant warrior, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious, he appointed him over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph.

29 It came about at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had clothed himself with a new cloak; and both of them were alone in the field.

30 Then Ahijah took hold of the new cloak which was on him and tore it into twelve pieces.

31 He said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give you ten tribes

1 Kings 11:40 (NASB95)

40 Solomon sought therefore to put Jeroboam to death; but Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt to Shishak king of Egypt, and he was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

2 Chronicles 10:3–5 (NASB95)

3 So they sent and summoned him. When Jeroboam and all Israel came, they spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

4 "Your father made our yoke hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."

5 He said to them, "Return to me again in three days." So the people departed.

Setting: Whole nation comes before Rehoboam including Jeroboam.

The new King's 1st decision lays ahead. How is he going to decide? How are we going to decide?

2 Chronicles 10:6–11 (NASB95)

6 Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, "How do you counsel me to answer this people?"

7 They spoke to him, saying, "If you will be kind to this people and please them and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

8 But he forsook the counsel of the elders which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him and served him.

9 So he said to them, "What counsel do you give that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?"

10 The young men who grew up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you shall say to the people who spoke to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter for us.' Thus you shall say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins!

11 'Whereas my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.' "

What can we learn from the counsel given?

Proverbs 11:14 (NASB95)

14 Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory.

Proverbs 15:22 (NASB95)

22 Without consultation, plans are frustrated, But with many counselors they succeed.

The differences: age, action, and tone?

Job 12:12 (NASB95)

12 "Wisdom is with aged men, With long life is understanding.

Is Wisdom exclusive to age?

Proverbs 1:4 (NLT)

4 These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young.

The tone?

Proverbs 15:1 (NASB95)

1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

2 Chronicles 10:7 (NASB95)

7 They spoke to him, saying, "If you will be kind to this people and please them and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

1 Kings 11:31 (NASB95)

31 He said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give you ten tribes

The old people gave bad advice too.

2 Chronicles 10:15 (NASB95)

15 So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of events from God that the LORD might establish His word, which He spoke through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

Typical traps of decision making:

- Types of advice givers
- Circumstances
- Emotion

Most of us have asked the question or wondered, "how do I know God's will/plan/what He wants me to do? When it comes to decision time which way do I go?"

I believe you can know!

John 10:27 (NASB95)

27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

He says His sheep HEAR Him and follow.

God doesn't always speak direct situational instructions. But His word does cover everything we need to know to do His will.

If He did, **we would still be like Jeroboam.**

Jeroboam had direct revelation concerning his situation but what did he do? Still went to Rehoboam and said I'll be your loyal subject.

The principle that Rehoboam needed to know is the same for us. Knowing God's will is completely dependent on knowing His Word.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NASB95)

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;

This is God's direct clear revelation to you. He wants you to be set apart. Anything outside of God's plan for sexuality is immorality.

Some think the will is only spreading the gospel. If that's the case, why do anything else?

It's more than that. His will for you is to be holy/set apart because He is holy!

Do you realize today right now you have the answer for God's will in your life? It's for you to be holy! Specifically applies to you.

John 17:15–17 (NASB95)

15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

16 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

God thinks and does differently than us. When you look to Him things change.

Luke 11:34–36 (NASB95)

34 "The eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is clear, your whole body also is full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness.

35 "Then watch out that the light in you is not darkness.

36 "If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays."

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NASB95)

18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

You could add to these positive things: He tells people to love, be kind, etc.

And things He says are wrong: murder, pride etc...

Knowing God's specific will as it is revealed in the Bible is key.

But it is also knowing how God's truths in the Bible apply generally to situations.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NASB95)

31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Doesn't tell you what to eat or drink. Doesn't tell you specifically an activity. But it says do everything for his glory.

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NASB95)

12 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

When a "good thing" makes you unable to fulfill your God given responsibilities then that isn't good for you. Shouldn't do it.

Think about the old men's advice.

Romans 14:23 (NASB95)

23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

Principle is if you're not sure that is a sin or not don't do it!

You cannot bring Glory to God if you aren't able to trust Him. Lack of trust in Him is sin. HE IS TOTALLY trustworthy.

Know His word. Go to God in prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Counsel or advice" Is always bad and will always be bad if it goes against God's Word.

Seems obvious but we tend to think the old men gave good advice.

The Bible is the believer's final authority on how we should live.

Psalm 119:89–90 (NASB95)

89 Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

90 Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands.

His word is firm! In Heaven.

His faithfulness extends to you (each generation)

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (NASB95)

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

God is faithful and what He says is going to happen will happen! When He gives you guidance you can have confident expectations that you are on the right track

He called you. He will make it happen.

Don't miss out on God's will (sanctification) in this life!

Chapter 11.

2 Chronicles 11:1–12

Verse 1-12 Nation splits and then Rehoboam almost starts a civil war. God prevents it.

2 Chronicles 11:13–14 (NASB95)

13 Moreover, the priests and the Levites who were in all Israel stood with him from all their districts.

14 For the Levites left their pasture lands and their property and came to Judah and Jerusalem, for Jeroboam and his sons had excluded them from serving as priests to the LORD.

What's going on? Civil war is avoided but there are 2 kings and 2 nations and 1 religion.

So, Jeroboam sets up a new priesthood and all the Levitical priests move into Rehoboam's kingdom.

2 Chronicles 11:17 (NASB95)

17 They strengthened the kingdom of Judah and supported Rehoboam the son of Solomon for three years, for they walked in the way of David and Solomon for three years.

V18- 23 talk about Rehoboam's wives and kids and how he managed them.

2 Chronicles 12:1–2 (NASB95)

1 When the kingdom of Rehoboam was established and strong, he and all Israel with him forsook the law of the LORD.

2 And it came about in King Rehoboam's fifth year, because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem

2 Chronicles 11:14 (NASB95)

14 For the Levites left their pasture lands and their property and came to Judah and Jerusalem, for Jeroboam and his sons had excluded them from serving as priests to the LORD.

These guys left their homes/possessions and sold out for God. For 3 years. Were they saved? Not?

What we do doesn't save us. Saved by Grace!

What we do does impact how God deals with us.

2 Chronicles 12:2 (NASB95)

2 And it came about in King Rehoboam's fifth year, because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem

It says because they were unfaithful there was an attack. It does not say that God said they were no longer his people.

God is showing them something and it's the same for us.

2 Chronicles 12:4–5 (NASB95)

4 He captured the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem.

5 Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and the princes of Judah who had gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and he said to them, "Thus says the LORD, 'You have forsaken Me, so I also have forsaken you to Shishak.' "

God says if you want to do life without me then I'll let you. That's your choice

2 Chronicles 12:6–8 (NASB95)

6 So 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, saying, "They have humbled themselves so I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some measure of deliverance, and My wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by means of Shishak.

8 "But they will become his slaves so that they may learn the difference between My service and the service of the kingdoms of the countries."

Look at v8. What is God trying to teach the people? What is he teaching them and us?

We are all slaves to what we obey!

We all worship something.

Romans 6:16 (NASB95)

16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

Rehoboam, the priest, and the people walked with God for 3 years. They followed His word. And then they turned away.

They were still God's people but they became slaves to the thing they chose to obey. They chose to obey their own sinful desires and it led them into bondage.

The Christian life is not lived in one moment, 1 day, 1 month, 1 year, 1 commitment. It is a lifetime.

2 Chronicles 12:14 (NASB95)

14 He did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the LORD.

Remind you that Ezra wrote this book to give people hope. And he ends here saying God's king did evil.

We have done evil. God gives a greater grace. He gives you a chance today. To turn to him. To confess and be forgiven. To walk with Him.

I want you to have hope, God is faithful!

God wants us to be different than Rehoboam.

God's word was staring him in the face and he missed it. Let's not miss it.

Ephesians 5:15–17 (NASB95)

15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.