

The Decision that Destroyed the Kingdom

2 Chronicles 10:1-15



King Rehoboam had a great heritage. His grandfather was the beloved king David, a man after God's own heart. His father Solomon, in spite of his significant failures, was given supernatural wisdom unequaled in the human realm. When Rehoboam took over the throne, he inherited a united kingdom that was strong and at peace. Yet, he faced an immediate problem because his father had laid excessive demands upon his subjects and the children of Israel wanted some measure of relief. Big government can often be very oppressive.

The request for leniency came from all the tribes, voiced by their leader Jeroboam. How Rehoboam would handle this request would determine the fate of the nation. First, he consulted his elderly, more experienced advisors who gave him fairly good counsel. Next, he asked counsel from young, inexperienced "know-it-alls" who gave him horrible advice.

America knows the curse of having very young, inexperienced, brainwashed politicians making nation-altering policies to the great hurt of its citizens.

Rehoboam asked counsel of the old and then of the young, **but he never asked counsel of the LORD** (compare *Josh. 9:14*). Failing to seek guidance from the LORD, and rejecting the counsel of older, wiser men, Rehoboam made a decision which rent the kingdom in two and caused most of the tribes of Israel to rebel against Rehoboam and abandon the throne of David.

As disastrous as this outcome was, we are surprised to read that it was exactly what God intended (*2 Chron. 10:15*), so that the prophecy of Ahijah might be fulfilled (*1 Kings 14:6-16*). Even terrible decisions made by unwise kings are under the sovereign purposes of God. Men act foolishly, and they unknowingly fulfill God's plan.

So also in our day, depraved leaders make corrupt decisions and yet God's plan for the ages will be wonderfully fulfilled to the very last detail!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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