

Today, we'd like to see the title of "Rehoboam" in the book of 2 Chronicles 10:1-19

To Online Word's people on the earth, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions.

Q1. In verse 2, "So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard *it* (he was in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon), that Jeroboam returned from Egypt," why did Jeroboam flee to Egypt?

Q2. In verse 5, "So he said to them, "Come back to me after three days." And the people departed," how did Rehoboam seek the answer? And what lesson is to us?

Q3. In verse 15, "So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn *of events* was from God, that the LORD might fulfill His word, which He had spoken by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat," what divine characters can we see in a big picture?

**(Background)**

(2 Chronicles 9:30-31)

<sup>30</sup>Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. <sup>31</sup>Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place. (vs. (2 Samuel 5:4-5) David *was* thirty years old when he began to reign, *and* he reigned forty years. <sup>5</sup>In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.)

**(Text)**

<sup>1</sup> And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king. <sup>2</sup>So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard *it* (he was in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon), that Jeroboam returned

1= to Shechem (due to heavy taxes & heavy labors to build the temple, palace, the city of Jerusalem, other cities, and to repair the city of David, many opponents against Solomon existed, supporting Jeroboam the servant of Solomon. Probably this contention caused Rehoboam went to Shechem, the northbound of Jerusalem)

2=Q1 Jeroboam...was in Egypt (Why? due to Ahija's prophecy about Jeroboam to be a king over 10 tribes of Israel, Solomon sought to kill him <sup>1</sup>1 Kings 11:26-40)

<sup>1</sup> 1 Kings 11:26-40 Then Solomon's servant, Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite from Zereda, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king. <sup>27</sup> And this *is* what caused him to rebel against the king: Solomon had built the Millo *and* repaired the damages to the City of David his father. <sup>28</sup> The man Jeroboam was a

<p>from Egypt. <sup>3</sup>Then they sent for him and called him. And <u>Jeroboam and all Israel</u> came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, <sup>4</sup>“Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, <u>lighten the burdensome service of your father and his heavy yoke</u> which he put on us, and we will serve you.”</p> <p><sup>5</sup>So he said to them, “Come back to me <u>after three days.</u>” And the people departed.</p> <p><sup>6</sup>Then King Rehoboam <u>consulted the elders</u> who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, saying, “How do you advise <i>me</i> to answer these people?”</p> <p><sup>7</sup>And they spoke to him, saying, “<u>If you are kind to these people, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be your servants forever.</u>”</p> <p><sup>8</sup>But he <u>rejected the advice</u> which the elders had given him, and consulted <u>the young men who had grown up with him</u>, who stood before him. <sup>9</sup>And he said to them, “What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me,</p>	<p>3= Jeroboam and all Israel (Jeroboam and his supporters, the 10 tribes except Judah and Benjamin tribes)</p> <p>4= lighten the burdensome... heavy yoke... (reduce/ease the burden such as heavy labor &amp; tax)</p> <p>5=Q2 .... after 3 days... (how did he get his answer? (1) not seek God for counsel; (2) sought men for counsels; (3) rejected the elders' counsel and accepted the young men or peers' counsel – see verses 6-14 below for detail; what lesson is to us?)</p> <p>7= If you are kind to these people, and please them... good words to them, they will your servants forever. (simply reduce the heavy burden, and they will serve you forever. A reasonable advice!)</p> <p>8= rejected the advice... (Rehoboam should not reject it simply but consider it seriously as his father's advice.)</p>
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mighty man of valor; and Solomon, seeing that the young man was industrious, made him the officer over all the labor force of the house of Joseph. <sup>29</sup> Now it happened at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two *were* alone in the field. <sup>30</sup> Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that *was* on him, and tore it *into* twelve pieces. <sup>31</sup> And 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 will give ten tribes to you’ <sup>32</sup> (but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), <sup>33</sup> because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do *what is* right in My eyes and *keep* My statutes and My judgments, as *did* his father David. <sup>34</sup> However I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of My servant David, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes. <sup>35</sup> But I will take the kingdom out of his son’s hand and give it to you—ten tribes. <sup>36</sup> And to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there. <sup>37</sup> So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart desires, and you shall be king over Israel. <sup>38</sup> Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do *what is* right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. <sup>39</sup> And I will afflict the descendants of David because of this, but not forever.” <sup>40</sup> Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us?'"

<sup>10</sup>Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to the 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!' <sup>11</sup>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!'"<sup>12</sup> So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the king had directed, saying, "Come back to me the third day."<sup>13</sup> Then the king answered them roughly. King Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders, <sup>14</sup>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 it; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!" <sup>15</sup>So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from God, that the LORD might fulfill His word, which He had spoken by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

10= My little fingers shall be thicker than my father's waist [loins]... my father chastised ... with whips but I will.... with scourges [scorpions] (basically put heavier burden upon you)

13= King Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders... spoke to them according to the advice of the young men (3 major mistakes – (1) He did not seek God for advice but men <sup>2</sup>*Deut 4:29; Heb 11:6*; (2) He missed his father Solomon's word of "soft answer" <sup>3</sup>*Prov 15:1*; 3. (3) He did not treat the elders' advice seriously as his father's advice but simply accepted the peers' advice <sup>4</sup>*1 Tim 5:1*)

15=Q3 the king did not listen to the people (with his own free will).. the turn of events was from God (God allowed the event not to listen to them.. the Lord might fulfill His word... Ahijah... (In a big picture, God's foreknowledge to know everything; righteousness against Solomon's idolatry; the foreknowledge leads to predestination; goodness not to punish at Solomon's time but at his son's time for David's sake; God's faithfulness to keep covenant with David <sup>5</sup>*Sam 7:16*; e.g. Judas Iscariot's betrayal, with his free will, caused Jesus' crucifixion for our redemption; Israelites' following 10 spies' bad reports caused 40 years wilderness life but in a big picture, God disciplined them to be able to fight against Philistines for victory <sup>6</sup>*Ex 13:17, Rom 8:28-29*)

<sup>2</sup> *Deut 4:29* But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.; *Heb 11:6* But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

<sup>3</sup> *Prov 15:1* A soft answer turns away wrath. But a harsh word stirs up anger.

<sup>4</sup> *1 Tim 5:1* Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers.

<sup>5</sup> *2 Sam 7:16* And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.

<sup>6</sup> *Ex 13:17* Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." *Rom 8:28* And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

<p><sup>16</sup> Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying:</p> <p>“What share have we in David?  <i>We have</i> no inheritance in the son of Jesse.  <u>Every man to your tents</u>, O Israel!  Now see to your own house, O David!”</p> <p><u>So all Israel departed to their tents.</u></p> <p><sup>17</sup> But <u>Rehoboam</u> reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt <u>in the cities of Judah.</u></p> <p><sup>18</sup> Then King Rehoboam sent <u>Hadoram</u>, <u>who was in charge of revenue</u>; but the children of Israel stoned him with stones, and <u>he died</u>. Therefore King Rehoboam mounted <i>his</i> chariot <u>in haste to flee to Jerusalem.</u></p> <p><sup>19</sup> So <u>Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David</u> to this day.</p>	<p>16= Every man to your tents... So all Israel departed to their tents (separated from David, i.e. 10 tribes except Judah and Benjamin separated from David's line, Rehoboam the King)</p> <p>17= Rehoboam... in the cities of Judah (as the southern nation was called)</p> <p>18= Hadoram who was in charge of revenue (the tax collector)... he died.... In haste to flee to Jerusalem (now the capital city from Shechem )</p> <p>19= Israel... in rebellion against the house of David (Northern kingdom Israel the 10 tribes was reigned by Jeroboam ex-servant of Solomon; Southern kingdom Judah the 2 tribes was reigned by Rehoboam the son of Solomon --- That's the result of Rehoboam's serious mistakes.)</p>
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