

**Rehoboam: Failure to Plan**

**Lesson 5**

*For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.*

*Ezra 7:10*

**To Tax, Or Not to Tax?**

**Rehoboam’s problem (1 Kings 12:1-5; 2 Chr 10:1-5).**

When Rehoboam came to the throne, the first problem he faced was the people demanding lower taxes.

**Rehoboam’s decision (1 Kings 12:6-15; 2 Chr 10:6-15).**

Rather than listen to the wise counsel of his father’s advisors, Rehoboam listened to the advice of the advisors his age and decided to threaten Israel with higher taxes.

**Rehoboam’s outcome (2 Kings 12:16-24; 2 Chr 10:14-11:4).**

The northern ten tribes revolted against Rehoboam and set up Jeroboam as their king.

**A Successful Recovery**

**Rehoboam listens to God’s prophet (11:1-4).**

Rather than start a foolish and ultimately doomed civil war, Rehoboam chose to refrain from attacking the rebellious north.

**Rehoboam builds up the national defense (11:5-12).**

**Rehoboam was joined by priests and Levites (11:13-15).**

Jeroboam begins appointing non-Levites to his twisted version of worship, and so the true servants of God move down south.

**Rehoboam saw true worshippers join him (11:16-17).**

The common people also realize that they should be part of the true worship of Jerusalem, and many continue to faithfully follow God by coming to Jerusalem to worship.

**Like Father, Like Son**

**Rehoboam’s sinful choices (2 Chr 11:18-12:4, 9-12).**

Sadly, as so often happens in the Old Testament, Rehoboam’s prosperity led to apathy, and his apathy led to sinful rebellion.

* **Rehoboam married many wives.**
* **Rehoboam worshipped foreign gods (1 Kings 14:21-24).**

**God’s righteous judgment (12:9-12).**

God sent Egypt against Israel, and the Pharaoh Shishak conquered Judah’s cities and stole Jerusalem’s gold.

**Rehoboam’s End**

**Rehoboam is spared total destruction (2 Chr 12:5-9, 12).**

Because Rehoboam and his nobles humbled themselves and sought God, God preserved them from being wiped out.

**Rehoboam failed to fully seek after God (2 Chr 12:14).**

Unlike Ezra (Ezra 7:10) and the people of Judah themselves (2 Chronicles 11:16), Rehoboam only followed God when he needed him. As a result, Rehoboam lived an evil life.