

Series: Choices

THE PRICE OF A CHOICE

2 CHRONICLES 10:1-19; PSALMS 1

Text:

Introduction:

In your study of the Word of God you might have noticed that as a general rule, at the end of each king's reign their character is summed up and described as either doing evil in the sight of the Lord, or doing right in the sight of the Lord. They gave a summary of their whole life in one of these sentences; and there will be a day when there will be a summary of our lives as well.

This man Rehoboam was not half as bad as some of the other kings; still scripture says that "He did evil."

He was not as an outrageous sinner as some were. He was not an Ahab; he was not even a Manasseh, he did not live as that king did in his evil time, yet "he did evil" and the reason why he did evil is given.

The scriptures do not say that he did evil because he had a bad set of parents.

The scriptures do not say that he did evil because he had a bad upbringing.

The scriptures do not say that he did evil because he had a bad set of friends – which it is certain that some of his friends were suspect in their wisdom and advice.

The Bible states the reason that he did evil was because “he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord.”

Notice with me again it was not because of his upbringing that it is said that he did evil, not because of bad company or because of something that he did, but rather of something he failed to do.

Notice:

1. HIS FORSAKING (12:1)

2 Chronicles 12:1

¹ *And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, **he forsook the law of the LORD**, and all Israel with him.*

His father Solomon began his reign seeking the Lord and His wisdom, but not Rehoboam.

Note:

- Forsook God’s Wisdom and Counsel and Turned To Men For Advice.

(READ) 2 Chronicles 10:1-14

Thought:

Usually when men don't go to God for advice, they generally accept the very worst form of advice.

Note, not only did he Forsake God's Wisdom and Counsel and Turned To Men For Advice" but also:

He Forsook the Law of God

2 Chronicles 12:1

¹ And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him.

It's bad enough when one turns to men for counsel but is disastrous when they do so forsaking the law of the Lord.

Notice not only he "Forsaking" but secondly:

2. HIS FORGERY (12:2-4, 9-10)

2 Chronicles 12:2-4

² And it came to pass, that in the fifth year of king Rehoboam Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD, ³ With twelve hundred chariots, and threescore thousand horsemen: and the people were without number that came with him out of Egypt; the Lubims,

the Sukkiims, and the Ethiopians. ⁴ *And he took the fenced cities which pertained to Judah, and came to Jerusalem.*

2 Chronicles 12:9-10

⁹ *So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made.* ¹⁰ *Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house.*

In the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign, Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem.

Not it was because they had transgressed against the Lord (vs. 2)

When the king of Egypt invaded Jerusalem he took the fenced cities, the treasures of the house of the Lord, the treasures of the Kings house, and the shields of gold which Solomon had made.

Rehoboam did a very strange thing when this happened. Instead of falling on his face before God and saying Oh God the enemy has come and have taken away the precious shields of gold, he instead

commanded his servants to go get some brass and make brazen shields.

He shined them up, and acted just like nothing had ever happened.

Note:

Brass is a cheap imitation of gold.

It requires more work to keep its shine and luster.

May I submit to you that today we are replacing the shields of gold with shields of brass.

- The Shield of Preaching is Being Replaced with the Shield of Entertainment
- The Shield of Holiness is Being Replaced with the Shield of Worldliness
- The Shield of Prayer is Being Replaced with the Shield of Promotions
- The Shield of Faith is Being Replaced with the Shield of Programs
- The Shield of Convictions and Consistency is being Replaced with the Shield of Complacency and Convenience

All of these are poor substitutes and forgeries of the real shields of gold.

Notice not only his “Forsaking and Forgeries” but thirdly:

3. HIS FAILURE (12:14)

2 Chronicles 12:14

¹⁴ *And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.*

He began well and in the first three years of his reign the nation worshipped God, but as soon as he prospered he grew proud and forsook God, and took the nation with him.

Note:

He had no care of serving God, whatever was popular was the direction he headed.

Someone once said, “If no care or effort is made in doing and making the heart right, it must and will go wrong.”

We must choose to do right and failing to make that choose we will do wrong.

The choice made by him was an awful choice because it was ill advised and was very inconsiderate of the people that served his kingdom.

The people were willing to serve Rehoboam forever if he had only followed the advice of the old men. Sadly, he did not and his cold, calculating, calloused heart would have no compassion for the people whom he led.

To use scorpions as whips to beat the servants demonstrates just how calloused or hard Rehoboam really was. This kind of hardness found in leaders does not demonstrate quality leadership. I know preachers who try to pastor their churches with this mentality. They and their churches are doomed to failure. Many times the pastor is allowed to go through very difficult life experiences before he can tenderly lead his people.

His failure was because of:

- A Choice That Was Calloused
- A Choice That Had Consequences

Close:

Rehoboam made some foolish choices and attached to them was a price tag.

- He Could Not Enjoy His Reign

2 Chronicles 10:16-19

¹⁶ And when all Israel saw that the king would not hearken unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? and we have none inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to your tents, O Israel: and now, David, see to thine own house. So all Israel went to their tents. ¹⁷ But as for the children of Israel that dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. ¹⁸ Then king Rehoboam sent Hadoram that was over the tribute; and the children of Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. But king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. ¹⁹ And Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

- He Could Not Escape the Rebellion

There will be definite consequences that cannot be avoided when one receives and chooses to follow bad counsel. We should very carefully listen to the counsel that comes from God and also the Godly.

Note:

Psalm 1:1

¹ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

May we seek God when we make choices and remember always the every choice has consequences and a price tag attached to it.