

**Theme:** Rehoboam’s foolish actions were the means God used to fulfill his prophetic word to Jeroboam. They would result both in judgment against the sin of the nation, and blessing in preserving a remnant for the sake of his promise.

**Background:** The brief period of a united kingdom is about to come to an end.

**Introduction:** We have no trouble finding people who will tell us what we want to hear. We have taken 2 Timothy 4:3 to new heights. But Exodus 34:7 still holds true.

## **I. The Sins of the Father**

### A. Rebellion in the air

1. Meet us in Shechem
  - a. Where Israel proclaimed its covenant commitment  
- Deuteronomy 11:29-32 fulfilled in Joshua 8:30-36
  - b. Rehoboam must go to them (Northern Tribes)
2. Not Jerusalem
  - a. The city of David
  - b. The center of worship and the kingship
3. Jeroboam returns from Egypt  
- Spokesman for “all Israel”? (3)

### B. Allegiance on condition - Lighten the load! (4)

### C. Judgment in the air

1. Judgment against Solomon  
- His heart had turned from the Lord, from wisdom!  
NOTE: His disobedience was bearing fruit.
2. Judgment against Israel
  - a. Forgetting the blessings they received
  - b. Rejecting the Lord’s anointed (2 Samuel 2:8ff)

## **II. The Sins of the Children**

### A. Rehoboam seeks counsel (6)

1. From the “old” men  
- Be a servant king (7)  
NOTE: He would have been a king like his grandfather. (Mark 10:45)
2. From the “young” men  
- Raised in privilege and idolatry, they counsel...  
- Enslave them! (10-11)

### B. Rehoboam’s Folly

1. A poor decision/judgment (Proverbs 15:1)
2. Spiritual blindness
3. Promising cruelty (14)

### III. Rejecting God's Covenant

- A. Israel's folly
    - They rejected God's anointed king
    - They rejected God's Covenant (1 Kings 12:16; 2 Sam.20:1ff)
  - B. Declaring independence
    - Make Jeroboam their king (20)
    - Living in rebellion (19)
  - C. Rehoboam's response
    - 1. Send Adoram to put them back to work? (18)
    - 2. Raise an army and try to beat them into submission
  - D. God's intervention (24)
    - For once, Rehoboam listens
- NOTE: A word of caution regarding application.

### IV. Revealing God's Judgement and Mercy

NOTE: God fulfills his word through the decisions and actions of sinful people!

- A. Fulfilling God's Word (15,24)
    - 1. The kingdom will be divided (11:30ff)
    - 2. Because of idolatry (11:33)
    - 3. Rehoboam and Jeroboam are God's instruments
      - Both could have honored God (cf. 7b; 11:38)
    - 4. God's sovereignty governs these affairs (Proverbs 21:1)
      - It was his "turn of affairs" to fulfill his word (15)
      - The tribes rebel because "this thing is from me" (24)
  - B. Preserving the remnant
    - 1. Judah is preserved – and humbled!
    - 2. Israel is shown mercy (northern tribes) (24)
    - 3. It is God's doing!
- NOTE: The Lord's people are a divided people.

### V. Living in a World Divided

- A. What does the passage tell us about ourselves?
  - 1. There is great danger in conforming to the culture around us.
  - 2. Apart from the Spirit of God – we are much better at dividing than uniting.
- B. How does God reveal himself in this passage?
  - 1. God works through the "turn of affairs" to divide or unite for his purposes.
  - 2. We can't overthrow God's promises or purposes!
- C. How does this point me to Jesus Christ? If God can accomplish such purposes through the actions of sinful men – what could he bring forth through the obedient worship and service of a perfect man??

Next Week: 1 Kings 12:25-14:31