

## THE ADVICE OF FOOLS. 1 KN. 12:1-11. 10/30/22. #32.

12 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 still in Egypt, for he had fled from the presence of King Solomon and had been dwelling in Egypt), <sup>3</sup> that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, <sup>4</sup> "Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you." <sup>5</sup> So he said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed. <sup>6</sup> Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise me to answer these people?" <sup>7</sup> And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever." <sup>8</sup> But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, 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, 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 this 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!"

### 1. The people's plea

- a. After Solomon's death, the people gathered at Shechem to anoint Rehoboam to be king
  - a1. Shechem = where Joseph's bones are buried
  - a2. Shechem = reading of the Law from Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal
- b. The people had high hopes for relief under Sol.'s son
  - a1. Every new change brings a renewed hope
  - a2. Reh. was raised in Sol.'s household
  - a3. Sol. had placed heavy taxes & demands on his subjects (unreasonable & unnecessary)
  - a4. Sol. enhanced his own glory & wealth on the backs of his subjects
- c. The people had a request before swearing allegiance to the new king
  - a1. They had brought Jeroboam back from Egypt to be their spokesman
  - a2. Their request was not unreasonable: lighten the tax & work load on us & we will serve you
- d. Rehoboam wanted to think about the request, so he told the people that he would give them an answer in 3 days (they left & then returned 3 days later)

### 2. Elder advice

- a. The advisors to Sol. had seen the damage that Sol's

that Sol.'s policies had done to Israel

- a1. Both high taxes & burdensome workloads fell on the people to support Sol.'s luxury
  - a2. There was nothing that Reh. needed to add to the inheritance
  - b. The elders understood what was fomenting
    - a1. There is no indication that Sol. ever listened to the elders or even consulted them
    - a2. The elders gave 2 pieces of advice
      - b1. Lighten the load on the people
      - b2. If Reh. would serve the people the people would be his servants
  - c. The essence of good leadership is to serve the best interest of the people you are leading
    - a1. Mt. 23:11 the greatest is the servant of all
    - a2. Reh. would lack nothing & gain much by reducing taxes & workload on his subjects
  - d. Before Reh. heard the advice of the men his age, he rejected the advice of the elders
    - a1. This was about control & dominance
    - a2. To show mercy was to show weakness
    - a3. Those who love to control others cause much suffering, grief, & despair
- ### 3. The young and foolish
- a. Reh.'s youthful advisors told him to make matters worse for the people (as Pharaoh had done)
  - b. They advised Reh. to say that his little finger would be thicker than his father's waist & that his father scourged them with whips, but he will use scorpions
  - c. Rehoboam had learned pride & power from Sol.
    - a1. He had no idea what his subjects lives were like, nor did he care
    - a2. Reh. had no ability to feel the pain of others (Sol. did not seem to have this ability)
  - d. Unless one walks in another's shoes, one cannot understand another's pain & struggles
    - a1. Reh. showed no desire to learn about the lives of his subjects
    - a2. Reh. consulted men, but not God