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**KING REHOBOAM**

**Known for:** The counsel you receive matters

**Scriptures to study:** 1 Kings 12, 1 Kings 14:21-31, 2 Chronicles 10-12

Rehoboam was the son of King Solomon and king of Judah for seventeen years (931–913 BC). Solomon had turned away from God, and God told Solomon that He would tear the kingdom from him yet leave him one tribe. God also promised, for the sake of David, not to tear the kingdom away during Solomon’s lifetime but during that of his son (1 Kings 11:9-13). Shortly after Rehoboam became king, a rebellion placed the ten northern tribes under the rule of Jeroboam and left Rehoboam with his own tribe (Judah) and the tribe of Benjamin.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Rehoboam’s reign is a cautionary tale in receiving both good and bad advice. When he humbled himself and obeyed God, he flourished. But when he took bad advice and disobeyed God, he stumbled. 2 Chronicles 12:12 says, “Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the Lord’s anger turned from him, and he was not totally destroyed. Indeed, there was some good in Judah.” “Some good in Judah” seems a fitting way to characterize the reign of Rehoboam. He was unwise and perhaps brash in his treatment of the forced laborers, thus leading to his loss of the kingdom. However, that loss was God-ordained, and Rehoboam proceeded to follow the ways of the Lord for some time. But then he turned from God, and the nation slid into moral and spiritual decay. “Judah did evil in the eyes of the Lord. By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than those who were before them had done” (1 Kings 14:22).

**Key thoughts:**

* The older advisers gave King Rehoboam the wise counsel to honor the people and thus win their loyalty (1 Kings 12:6–7; 2 Chronicles 10:6–7).
* King Rehoboam asked the young men who had grown up with him for advice as well. They foolishly told the new king to threaten even harsher conditions. Rehoboam took the young men’s advice, and the people rebelled, abandoning the house of David and ultimately making Jeroboam their king (1 Kings 12:8–20; 2 Chronicles 10:8–19).
* After King Rehoboam became established in the southern kingdom, he abandoned the ways of God ([2 Chronicles 12:1](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Chron%2012.1)).



* Who in your life can you count on to be for you and to give you good advice?
* Do you have someone in your life who has given you bad advice? Did you heed it and what was the result?
* How important is it to you to have good counsel around you? What steps do you take to ensure someone is giving you good advice?



* Read 1 Kings 12:6-7. The people offered to serve King Rehoboam if they were not treated so harshly. What advice did Rehoboam receive from the older advisers?
* Read 1 Kings 12:8-14. What advice did King Rehoboam receive from the younger advisors? What did Rehoboam do as a result?
* Read 1 Kings 15:6. What was the relationship like between the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel? How do you think this affected Rehoboam’s reign?
* Read 2 Chronicles 12:1-5. What did Rehoboam do after he established his kingdom? What was the result of his actions?
* Read 2 Chronicles 12:6-8. When Rehoboam humbled himself after being attacked by Israel, what was God’s response?
* Read 2 Chronicles 12:13-14. How does the Bible summarize the reign of Rehoboam?



* Who are your most trusted advisors? How can you be sure they are giving you good advice worthy of following?
* During Rehoboam’s reign Israel was at a “civil war”. Do you ever fight other leaders within your family or organization? How can you lead and avoid “civil wars” with those within your sphere?
* There was a significant difference between the older and younger advisors of Rehoboam. Do you have both older and younger advisors in your sphere? How do you receive effectively the advice of each group?

1. https://www.gotquestions.org/King-Rehoboam.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)