

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

I KINGS 12

I Kings 12

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived to that point in time is dead. Solomon started well, but he did not finish well; such is the case of many of God's servants down through the ages. After Solomon's death in 931 B.C., Rehoboam, his son, came to power. Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, the adversary of Solomon, had fled to Egypt during the days of Solomon. Once a trusted foreman of his, and in charge of the tribe of Ephraim, he had become an enemy of King Solomon because of his ambition and the prophesy of Ahijah, the prophet from Shiloh, that Jeroboam would be given ten tribes of the twelve because of Solomon's sins.

Jeroboam was told that Solomon was dead and so he returned to Israel and gathered with all of Israel before King Rehoboam to ask for relief from the heavy taxation of King Solomon. Rehoboam, a young man, sought the counsel of the old sages who had been Solomon's advisor and knew the ins and outs of governing, as to how he should move forward with the people. The old wise men advised Rehoboam to ease the burdens of the people and lessen the taxes and tribute paid to the throne, and to let them have relief from serving the king each year for long periods of time. Rehoboam then turned to

the young men whom he had grown up with in the palace. These were young men who had never had to work for a living. Having grown up in the palace with the King's son, they were spoiled and unseasoned in leadership. They advised the young king to increase the burdens of the people:

"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! 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!' " (v. 12:10- 11).

Ten Tribes split from the kingdom because of the immature response of Rehoboam.

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, please help me to lead others with a servant's heart and not with a heavy hand that is burdensome to the people I lead. Grant me wisdom to be humble and kind. The greater authority, the greater the temptation for misuse of that authority. Amen

Date _____ Scripture _____

- ▶ *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- ▶ *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- ▶ *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
