

Rehoboam: Leadership Lost

A SILVER SPOON & A DEVASTATING CURSE:

1 Kings 12:1-24 & 11:9-13/ See also 1 Kings 14:21-31 & 2 Chronicles 10:1-14:15

A THEOLOGICAL DILEMMA **DID REHOBOAM HAVE A CHOICE OR ANY CHANCE AT SUCCESS?**

- ▶ Some things **don't have an easy answer**
Deuteronomy 29:29/ Isaiah 55:8-9/ 2 Timothy 2:22-23

- ▶ God is **sovereign** – but what we do really does **matter**
Jeremiah 18:1-10/ Ezekiel 18:21-32/ 2 Kings 20:1-6

LEADERSHIP LOST **REHOBOAM'S TWO STUPID MISTAKES**

- ▶ Listening to **bad advice**
1 Kings 12:6-11/ Proverbs 12:15 & 19:20/ Proverbs 14:7 & 15:2/ Proverbs 18:2
 - ❶ Am I asking the **right people**?
 - ❷ Am I seeking **advice** or someone who **agrees with me**?

- ▶ Leading by **fear & intimidation**
1 Kings 12:12-19/ Proverbs 3:3-4 & 20:28
 - ❶ Leaders who last always put **the needs of others first**
 - ❷ Leaders who last are **dependable** & **consistent**

Food for Thought

For the week of August 2, 2009

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. This week we saw that there are no easy answers when it comes to understanding exactly how God's sovereignty and our freedom of choice work together. What we did find out is that what we do really does matter. Look up Amos 7:3-6 and jot down how it speaks to this issue.

Amos 7:3-6

So the Lord relented.

"This will not happen," the Lord said.

[4] This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: The Sovereign Lord was calling for judgment by fire; it dried up the great deep and devoured the land. [5] Then I cried out, "Sovereign Lord, I beg you, stop! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!"

[6] So the Lord relented.

"This will not happen either," the Sovereign Lord said. [NIV]

2. Job found himself in a brutal situation that made no sense. His friends tried to figure it out and they got it all wrong too. Read Job 38, 42:1-7 & 10. How can (or should) this passage impact our perspective when we find ourselves dealing with questions about God's sovereignty and our circumstances?

Job 38:1-41

Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm. He said:

[2] "Who is this that darkens my counsel
with words without knowledge?"

[3] Brace yourself like a man;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.

[4] "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?
Tell me, if you understand.

[5] Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!
Who stretched a measuring line across it?

[6] On what were its footings set,
or who laid its cornerstone--

[7] while the morning stars sang together
and all the angels shouted for joy?

[8] "Who shut up the sea behind doors
when it burst forth from the womb,

[9] when I made the clouds its garment
and wrapped it in thick darkness,

[10] when I fixed limits for it
and set its doors and bars in place,

[11] when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther;
here is where your proud waves halt'?

[12] "Have you ever given orders to the morning,

or shown the dawn its place,
[13] that it might take the earth by the edges
and shake the wicked out of it?
[14] The earth takes shape like clay under a seal;
its features stand out like those of a garment.
[15] The wicked are denied their light,
and their upraised arm is broken.
[16] "Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
[17] Have the gates of death been shown to you?
Have you seen the gates of the shadow of death?
[18] Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth?
Tell me, if you know all this.
[19] "What is the way to the abode of light?
And where does darkness reside?
[20] Can you take them to their places?
Do you know the paths to their dwellings?
[21] Surely you know, for you were already born!
You have lived so many years!
[22] "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow
or seen the storehouses of the hail,
[23] which I reserve for times of trouble,
for days of war and battle?
[24] What is the way to the place where the lightning is dispersed,
or the place where the east winds are scattered over the earth?
[25] Who cuts a channel for the torrents of rain,
and a path for the thunderstorm,
[26] to water a land where no man lives,
a desert with no one in it,
[27] to satisfy a desolate wasteland
and make it sprout with grass?
[28] Does the rain have a father?
Who fathers the drops of dew?
[29] From whose womb comes the ice?
Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens
[30] when the waters become hard as stone,
when the surface of the deep is frozen?
[31] "Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades?
Can you loose the cords of Orion?
[32] Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons
or lead out the Bear with its cubs?
[33] Do you know the laws of the heavens?
Can you set up God's dominion over the earth?
[34] "Can you raise your voice to the clouds
and cover yourself with a flood of water?
[35] Do you send the lightning bolts on their way?
Do they report to you, 'Here we are'?
[36] Who endowed the heart with wisdom
or gave understanding to the mind?
[37] Who has the wisdom to count the clouds?
Who can tip over the water jars of the heavens
[38] when the dust becomes hard
and the clods of earth stick together?
[39] "Do you hunt the prey for the lioness
and satisfy the hunger of the lions
[40] when they crouch in their dens

or lie in wait in a thicket?
[41] Who provides food for the raven
when its young cry out to God
and wander about for lack of food? [NIV]

Job 42:1-7

Then Job replied to the Lord:

[2] "I know that you can do all things;
no plan of yours can be thwarted.
[3] You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?'
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.
[4] "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.'
[5] My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.
[6] Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes."

[7] After the Lord had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. [NIV]

Job 42:10

After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before. [NIV]

3. We also looked at the importance of seeking wise counsel when making decisions. One of the reasons to do so is to make sure we're not falling victim to our personal blind spots. What do the following verses have to say about avoiding this trap or ignoring wise counsel like Rehoboam did?

Psalms 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
[24] See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting. [NIV]

Proverbs 9:9

Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still;
teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning. [NIV]

Proverbs 14:15

A simple man believes anything,
but a prudent man gives thought to his steps. [NIV]

Ecclesiastes 7:16

Do not be overrighteous,
neither be overwise--

why destroy yourself? [NIV]

4. No one wants to lose their influence or leadership. Yet ironically, as we saw this week, influence and leadership are not about the power and authority we have, as much as the service, love, and dependability we give. How do the following verses speak to this issue? And how might they impact your current relationships?

Mark 10:43-45

Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, [44] and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. [45] For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." [NIV]

John 13:12-15

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. [13] "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. [14] Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. [15] I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. [NIV]

Romans 15:1-3

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. [2] Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. [3] For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." [NIV]