

# Bring Back To Remembrance

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## The Great Divide

(I Ki 12:12-15, 20)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on “Bring Back To Remembrance.”
  - a. Last week we looked at “The Judges.”
    - i. **Jg 21:24-25** “And the people of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family, and they went out from there every man to his inheritance. 25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”<sup>1</sup>
  - b. This week we are going to look at “The Great Divide.”
    - i. **I Ki 12:12-15, 20** “So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, “Come to me again the third day.” 13 And the king answered the people harshly, and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, 14 he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.” 15 So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by the LORD that he might fulfill his word, which the LORD spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat...20 And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only.”
3. Brethren as with the past weeks our goal here is to examine those things that will help us draw closer to God and in the process remind what is meant by “give God the honor He is due.”
  - a. With that in mind let us examine our text this day.

### I. The Great Divide

- A. There really is not that much written concerning the rule of Rehoboam
  1. Thinking back to the previous kings of Israel there is much said.
    - i. Saul is found to have much written concerning him.
      - a. He is the first king of Israel.
      - b. He is the first king to rebel against God.
      - c. He goes crazy.
    - ii. David is found to have much written about him.
      - a. He became king at a young age.
      - b. He defeated Goliath.
      - c. He commits adultery and murder, but repents.
      - d. He is found to be a man after God’s own heart.
      - f. He is inspired to write much of God’s Word.

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- iii. Solomon is found to have much written about him.
  - a. He had more earthly wisdom than anyone that ever lived.
  - b. He is the king that accomplished the greatest expanse and longest peace the kingdom of Israel really ever had as a free nation.
  - c. He is inspired by God to write much of God's Word.
  - d. His earthly wisdom led to his disastrous plummet into sin.
- 2. With all the accomplishments and writings of the kings before Rehoboam it is astounding how little is actually written about him and yet how infamous he is.
  - i. In I Kings Rehoboam's life is summed up in only 44 verses.
  - ii. In I Chronicles Rehoboam's life is summed up in only 58 verses.
- B. Though not much is written about Rehoboam he is known for one thing, dividing the kingdom of Israel
  - 2. Rehoboam sought the counsel of two different groups.
    - i. He sought the counsel of the older wiser group that had served under Solomon during a time of peace.
      - a. They advised Rehoboam to serve the people.
        - 1. **I Ki 12:7** "...If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever."
    - ii. He sought the counsel of his friends who were "yes men" to Rehoboam.
      - a. They advised Rehoboam to put his foot on the peoples necks.
        - 1. **I Ki 12:10-11** "...My little finger is thicker than my father's thighs. 11 And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions."
    - iii. Rehoboam listened not to the older wiser counsel but rather to the younger yes men, his friends and thus divided the kingdom of Israel.
      - a. **I Ki 12:8** "But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him."
- C. Thus...
  - 1. We see the great kingdom of Israel split in two.
    - i. Ten tribes creating the Northern Kingdom also known as Israel.
    - ii. Two tribes, Judah & Benjamin, creating the Southern Kingdom also known as Judah.

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## II. Lesson Learned

A. We are to seek wisdom from good counsel

1. Solomon, Rehoboam's dad, opined to Rehoboam about the need to seek God's counsel and those with wisdom if he dared to be something other than a fool.
  - i. **Pr 2:1-10** "My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, 8 guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. 9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; 10 for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul"
    - a. As we read in **I Kings 12** Rehoboam reject the words of his father by rejecting wisdom and become therefore a fool.
      1. **Pr 1:7** "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."
2. How can one know if they have received wise counsel from someone or not?
  - i. First we have to understand what wisdom is.
    - a. Wisdom is knowledge and understanding combined.
      1. **Pr 2:6** "For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding"
  - ii. Second we must pray for wisdom.
    - a. One will not become wise without praying for wisdom.
      1. **Ja 1:5** "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."
  - iii. Third we must study what proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.
    - a. We must go to the source of knowledge and understanding.
      1. **II Ti 2:15** "...rightly handling the word of truth"
      2. **Ps 119:11** "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."
      3. **Er 7:10** "For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel."
  - iv. Last we must find those that seek what comes from the mouth of the LORD.
    - a. These are found by observing their actions based on God's Word.
      1. **Ph 3:17** "Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us."

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2. **Mt 13:52** "...Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."
  - v. If we follow these steps we will know whether or not we have found the counsel of others to be wise.
- B. Thus...
1. If we want to keep from being called fools by God we must seek wise counsel from God and his faithful followers.

### CONCLUSION

1. How many times have we come to a crossroads and sought out wise counsel only to reject it?
  - a. **Ps 1:1-2** "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night."
2. Question: Are you striving to seek earthly wisdom or wisdom from above?
  - a. Many in this life seek earthly wisdom but therein is death.
  - b. Make certain you are seeking that which can only come from above!!!
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**