

## **II CHRONICLES**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to II Chronicles chapter 10 as we continue our study through the Word of God. In our last study we saw the nation of Israel reach the zenith of power and not only in power but also in wealth, in prosperity under the reign of Solomon. And we concluded last time with the death of Solomon and now his son, Rehoboam is the king in Israel. And as I said last time, Solomon was riding out the spiritual wave of his father David, who was a godly man and tragically, Rehoboam will ride out the material wave of his father Solomon. With that said, let's begin reading in II Chronicles chapter 10, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us this evening as we study through His Word!

### **II CHRONICLES 10**

#### **VERSES 1-5**

1. Now we see Rehoboam, the son of Solomon as the next king in Israel. And he goes to Shechem to be made king, but why Shechem? Keep in mind that Shechem had a rich history. It was the place where Abraham worshiped God – Genesis 12:6. It was the place where Jacob built an altar before God and purchased land there – Genesis 33:18-20. It was the place where Joseph was buried – Joshua 24:32. And it was also the geographical center of the northern tribes of Israel. But still, why Shechem?

I think it was showing the overall weakness of Rehoboam, that he could not be made king in Jerusalem but went to Shechem to appease the northern tribes! And we can see the weakness in this king as we read through these verses here in II Chronicles. Yes, he reigned for 17 years but in those 17 years the nation deteriorated into a second class nation. At one time people from near and far came to see the glory of this kingdom, but that is going to change very quickly.

2. Now we are also introduced to another man named Jeroboam. If you remember from our study of I Kings Jeroboam was a very young and industrious man whom Solomon takes notice of. And Solomon placed him in charge of the labor force over the house of Joseph. It was after this that Ahijah the Shilonite, a prophet of God, met with Jeroboam in a field. And Ahijah took the garment of Jeroboam and tore it into 12 pieces and told him to take ten of those pieces. He said to Jeroboam, “**... ‘Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: ‘Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you.’**” I Kings 11:31.

So as Solomon hears about this he tries to stop what God said He was going to do by killing Jeroboam, who then flees to Egypt for safety. But now that Solomon is dead, he returns from Egypt to Jerusalem.

3. As we have seen, Solomon taxed the people heavily to help build up the kingdom but he never let up even though silver was not even counted in the kingdom, it was thought as nothing. Gold was everywhere and yet, he kept taxing. Now that Rehoboam is king, the people want him to ease up on the taxation because it was becoming a tremendous burden for them, and they have Jeroboam representing their cause.

4. When Rehoboam hears about this I think he did the right thing. He tells the people to go home and he will think about their request and get back to them in three days. How would he respond to their request? Let's read on and see.

#### VERSES 6-7

1. The elders that ministered before Solomon are now asked by Rehoboam what he should do. He gave wise counsel to Solomon and that is why I think Rehoboam asked their advice. And they tell the king to ease up on them, be kind to them, serve them and they will serve you. They understood that Rehoboam was not Solomon and thus, he could not expect the people to respond to him as they did to his father. And the reality is, that should be the heart of anyone in ministry, and we all are in ministry. We need to be servants and not lord over the people. With titles goes power and pride many times, and God is telling us that we need to humble ourselves and serve the people. This was good advice for Rehoboam and it is good advice for us.

VERSES 8-11

1. I am not sure why Rehoboam asked the advice of the elders when he really did not want to hear what they had to say. He rejected their counsel even before he heard the counsel of his friends. And we see Rehoboam consult these young men that he grew up with, to hear their counsel. And understand that these were not some rebellious or punk teenagers giving him this advice, these guys he grew up with. And at this time Rehoboam was some 41 years old, and so were these young men. And when you listen to the counsel of these guys you can clearly see it was truly foolish.

They are basically telling Rehoboam to let the people know who is in charge, who the boss is. In other words, “You thought my dad was tough, you aint seen nothing yet!” He is telling them that he was stronger than his father Solomon and he will find out, he isn’t!

VERSES 12-15

1. So the three days pass by and Rehoboam appears before the people, rejecting the counsel of the elders and listening to his friends and he let’s the people have it. He says that he is going to make things even harder for them! Now what is interesting to me is that it says that God was the one who ordained this to happen. Does that mean Rehoboam is not responsible? Absolutely not! You see, God knew what Rehoboam was going to do but it was Rehoboam, in his pride and arrogance who thinks that he is in control, he is the boss, and he is completely unaware that he was going to fulfill what God had said was to happen to the kingdom. Again, back in I Kings chapter 11 the prophet Ahijah predicted that the kingdom would split and here we see that prophecy come to pass.

2. Listen to what Meyer wrote regarding this, “It seemed to be altogether a piece of human folly and passion; but now we are suddenly brought into the presence of God, and told that beneath the plottings and plannings of man He was carrying out His eternal purpose. . . . He makes the wrath of man to praise Him, and weaves the malignant work of Satan into his plans.”

And Spurgeon put it like this, “Notice also, dear friends, that God is in events which are produced by the sin and the stupidity of men. This breaking up of the kingdom of Solomon into two parts was the result of Solomon’s sin and Rehoboam’s folly; yet God was in it: ‘This thing is from me, saith the Lord.’ God had nothing to do with the sin or the folly, but in some way which we can never explain, in a mysterious way in which we are to believe without hesitation, God was in it all.”

#### VERSES 16-17

1. As a result of Rehoboam’s words the people had finally had enough and the 10 northern tribes separate from Judah and Benjamin in the south.

VERSES 18-19

1. Rehoboam thought he was still in charge. He did not take this rebellion seriously and thus, he sends his chief tax collector to gather the taxes from these ten tribes. Well, that was the last straw for these ten tribes and they murder this tax collector. Why were they so harsh to this man when Rehoboam was the one they were mad at? Because Hadoram was famous for his harsh policy of forced labor, they knew of him and they took their anger out upon him. (He is also called Adoniram in I Kings 4:6 and 5:14). And as Rehoboam sees what has happened to his tax collector, the light goes on and he high tails it out of there and flees to Jerusalem for safety among his own people!

**II CHRONICLES 11**VERSES 1-4

1. Well, Rehoboam is not exactly happy with what has taken place and he wants to restore the nation by force. So he gathers his army together and prepares to do battle. But God speaks to Rehoboam through the prophet Shemaiah, and tells him to stay at home and not to fight, for this is of God. Here's the thing, for many of us are like Rehoboam. You see, he had developed a plan but that was not God's plan, and he had to be redirected. And believe it or not, he listened and obeyed. It is as Solomon tells us in Proverbs 16:9, "**A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.**" May we listen!

2. Now who is this man of God named Shemaiah? We do not know anything about him except that he spoke forth the Word of God and in II Chronicles 12 he wrote down the Words of God. But in his actions here he prevented a civil war from breaking out. In regards to this man, Spurgeon tells us, "Here is one Shemaiah, - some of you never heard of him before, perhaps you will never hear of him again; he appears once in this history, and then he vanishes; he comes, and he goes, - only fancy this one man constraining to peace a hundred and eighty thousand chosen men, warriors ready to fight against the house of Israel, by giving to them in very plain, unpolished words, the simple command of God . . . Why have we not such power? Peradventure, brethren, we do not always speak in the name of the Lord, or speak God's Word as God's Word. If we are simply tellers out of our own thoughts, why should men mind us?"

What a great lesson for us. We want to see people's lives changed but we don't give them what they need, the Word of God which is living and it is powerful and it can change lives. And think about it, if God's Word was just living that would be great but there are lots of things that are living. There is the turtle, but he is not powerful. There is the lion who is both living and powerful and that is like God's Word. May we speak it boldly under the power of God's Spirit as we share with people!

VERSES 5-12

1. Here we see Rehoboam fortify his cities so they would not be overtaken by Israel or the Northern Kingdom of Israel or any other nation. But as you read this what is the one thing that is missing? There is no mention of the building up of their faith, only their armaments and that is a danger. He neglected the spiritual aspect and once that door is opened, it is hard to shut! He was relying on his physical strength instead of the Lord!

VERSES 13-16

1. Remember that the Levites were spread throughout the land of Israel in some 48 Levitical cities and this covered all of Israel, from the north to the south. But Jeroboam cuts them off from being priests, sets up his own priesthood, and two golden calves in which they were to worship God by. You see, he was concerned that the people might all go to Jerusalem to worship God, in the Temple, and many would not return. So he had to make a place for them to worship God at. Now that these priests were relieved of their duties by Jeroboam, they head to Jerusalem to continue the work they were called to do. Not only did the priests begin to leave, but also some of the people headed south to Jerusalem after they saw the idolatry that Jeroboam was bringing into the land. Here we see, in a sense, the separation of the wheat and the chaff or the true and the false.

2. We are living in a day where we too must take a stand for the Word of God and the God we serve because there is much false teaching coming into the Church! It saddens me to see Christians compromise their faith because they like the church they are going to even though they have neglected the Word of God and refuse to return to the Word of God. If we negate the authority and inerrancy of the Scripture, how do we know what to believe? We don't and yet the Bible teaches us that God's Word is truth, so who are you going to believe, man or God? In His book, *Historical Drift*, Dr. Arnold Cook makes five points regarding how we are to teach and read the Word of God and this is something that many churches have moved away from. Listen closely to what he has to say. He wrote,

1. Go with the clarity of Scripture, not with obscure passages.
2. Listen for the Spirit of Scripture on any given issue.
3. Let Scripture interpret Scripture to find consensus and harmony.
4. Follow Christ's handling of Scripture, e.g., referencing issues back to the Old Testament, especially Genesis.
5. Hold tenaciously to a literal interpretation of Scripture wherever possible.

- Arnold L. Cook, *Historical Drift*, p. 61

Do you see how important that is for us? Once the door of compromise is opened, it is hard for any church to return back to the inerrancy and authority of the Scripture. You see, once you say that the Bible just contains the Words of God, which ones? We all can pick and choose but how do we know who is right? We don't! Harold Lindsell had this to say regarding what happens when inerrancy is abandoned. He wrote,

It is my opinion that once that step is taken, it is next to impossible to stop the process of theological deterioration. I have said that it is a theological watershed just as the Continental Divide is the watershed for the United States and Canada. The water that flows on one side of the divide ends up in the Atlantic Ocean. The water that flows on the other side of the divide ends up in the Pacific Ocean. But once the water starts down one side or the other, it continues until it reaches its oceanic destination.

- Harold Lindsell, *The Battle for the Bible*, p. 142

I can't agree with him more. Don't open that door of compromise regarding the Word of God; you will never get it closed again! Let me drive this home with one more statement. This is from Francis Shaeffer who wrote,

The generation of those who first give up biblical inerrancy may have a warm evangelical background and real personal relationship with Jesus Christ so that they can live theologically on the basis of their limited-inerrancy viewpoint. But what happens when the next generation tries to build on that foundation? I am saying that whether it takes five or fifty years, any denomination or parachurch group that forsakes inerrancy will end up shipwrecked. It is impossible to prevent the surrender of other important doctrinal teachings of the Word of God when inerrancy is gone.

- Harold Lindsell, *The Battle for the Bible*, p. 142-143

What happens when this takes place in Churches across America? We become Seeker Friendly, Purpose Driven, Emergent churches who are social institutions. May we learn the lesson and heed the warning and get back to the Word of God in America today!

VERSE 17

1. What was the strength of the Southern Kingdom of Judah? It was the godly men and women, the priests who migrated from the Northern Kingdom of Israel. How do I know that? Because it says, **“So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah”** and it links us back to verses 13-16 which speaks of those who came from Israel! But that strength, that godliness you might say only lasted three years because of Rehoboam’s general bent towards ungodliness!

VERSES 18-23

1. Rehoboam is already preparing his son Abijah to be the next king in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Now understand that Abijah is probably not his eldest son but because he loved his wife Maachah more than all the other wives he had, he was going to make him king. I guess he didn’t learn his lesson from his father Solomon who had 700 wives and 300 concubines. And yes, Rehoboam had less, but that may be because he did not have as much wealth as his father did. And please understand that God is not condoning polygamy, this is goes against what God said back in Deuteronomy chapter 17 as well as the book of Genesis when God brought Adam and Eve together. The Lord is just telling us the facts, what this king did! Also, Rehoboam I believe is concerned that his sons might be murdered, so he spreads them out throughout the land, to prevent them from being wiped out all at once. We saw with Solomon a time of great peace, and now the king is afraid of rebellion from within and not only an attack from without.

**II CHRONICLES 12****VERSE 1**

1. Notice what we are told here about Rehoboam. He **“had established the kingdom.”** **“He had strengthened himself.”** It is a life that is consumed with self, with the building up of *HIS* kingdom, building *HIMSELF* up and when that happens there is no room for God and the end result is, **“he forsook the law of the LORD.”** And please understand that as the leader of these people, as their king, he led them away from the Lord for we are told, **“all Israel along with him.”**

Now you might not think he was that bad but he was. In I Kings 14:21-24 we are told, **“And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king. He reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess. Now Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, more than all that their fathers had done. For they also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. And there were also perverted persons in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel.”**

They were worshiping the false gods, they were allowing the prostitutes into the land, probably both male and female and they were associated with the worship of these false gods. They followed after the abominations of the people they were to drive out from the land but did not! And thus, they transgressed the law of God and God was going to judge them for it! They provoked the Lord to jealousy and look at what happens because of it.

#### VERSES 2-4

1. Why did the Egyptians and the Lubim, who were the Libyans, the Sukkim, who were other desert tribes possibly from western Libya, and the Ethiopians coming upon Judah? I am sure they all had their reasons but the reality here is that God brings judgment upon Rehoboam and the Southern Kingdom of Judah because they turned away from the Lord. When they looked to the Lord the kingdom was strengthened, but now, because they have forsaken the Lord, the kingdom will be weakened.

Now this word, “**transgressed**” is important for us to understand. Selman explains it like this as he wrote, “To be *unfaithful* to God is one of Chronicles’ key terms (it never occurs in Samuel and Kings), and its regular occurrence shows Israel’s constant estrangement from God. . . . It involves denying God the worship due to him, usually on a national scale, and is the primary reason given in Chronicles for the exile.” God had warned them, they just refused to listen, they thought they were strong and they were not!

2. Now this king of Egypt, Shishak has recorded for us this campaign against the Southern Kingdom of Judah as Payne tells us, “Known in Egyptian history as Sheshonk I, he was the founder of the Twenty-Second Dynasty and its most energetic Pharaoh. This particular campaign is documented by a list of conquered Palestinian cities that stands to this day carved on the wall of his temple of Amon at Karnak, Thebes.” I love to see how archeological evidence supports what the Scriptures are telling us, don’t you!

#### VERSE 5

1. This is the same prophet we read about in II Chronicles chapter 11 who warned Rehoboam not to attack the northern tribes when they had separated from Judah. Now he is telling Rehoboam why this was happening to them. They had forsaken the Lord and this judgment would either draw them back to God or they would keep going away from Him, but it was their choice in the matter. If you want to remain in captivity, if you want to remain in bondage, don’t listen to the Lord. If you want to be set free, well, Jesus said, **“... ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”** John 8:31-32. You see, when you come to Christ those chains that have you in bondage are broken and there is true freedom you will now have. But again, it is up to you, it is your choice as it was for Rehoboam and the Southern Kingdom of Judah!

VERSE 6

1. You have to give them credit here. This prophet of God, Shemaiah, comes to Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah and tells them the reason God's judgment has come upon them. He tells them it is because they have turned away from the Lord, it was their own fault! Now the king could have become angry, mad, had Shemaiah killed for what he said but instead the king and his leaders recognize their failure and see the righteousness of God.

You see, they understood that the judgment of God is righteous, it is not unfair. We see that in Revelation 19:1-3 in the midst of the Tribulation Period where we are told, **“After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, ‘Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.’ Again they said, ‘Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!’”** You see, God's judgments are righteous and true, they are never wrong or unfair.

Now there are times when God brings His judgment upon people and instead of turning to Him they hide themselves, they turn away from Him as we see in Revelation 6:12-17, during the Tribulation Period again where we are told, **“I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’”**

They refused to repent and get right with God and they understood that they can not stand before a holy and righteous God in their filthy righteousness. Thus, instead of turning they ask to be killed, they can't take it. What a tragic statement that is. They know where this judgment is coming from and yet they refuse to turn to the Lord!

2. Folk's, when we find ourselves in sin, backsliding, and someone comes up to us and tries to get us to see our error, they try to help us get back on track, we tend to become angry with them. We don't want to hear what they have to say. Then, as we reap the consequences of our sin we become angry with God, we blame Him for what is happening to us. God is not unfair or unrighteous. We need to do like Rehoboam, humble ourselves before God, confess our sin, and turn back to Him. ***THE LORD IS RIGHTEOUS IN ALL THAT HE DOES!***

#### VERSES 7-8

1. Too often people have this picture of God as angry, as ready to pour out His wrath upon people, but that is not the God of the Old Testament because the God of the Old Testament is the God of the New Testament and He is full of love and grace! When you look at what is taking place here you will see that God was waiting with His forgiveness and as soon as they humbled themselves before Him, as soon as they repented of their sin, He forgave them.

I see here the picture of the Prodigal Son who wanted his inheritance before his dad died and when he received it he went away and spent it wickedly upon himself until there was nothing left. When the money was gone he was feeding pigs and eating the pig slop when he came to the end of himself and realized that he can go home. You see, he felt it was better to serve at his father's house and eat well then to eat this pig slop, so he returned home.

When he was still a ways out his father saw him coming and welcomed him back. Dressed him up, had a big feast for it says that this son was once dead but now is alive, he was once lost but now is found. (Luke 15:11-32). What I find interesting in this story is that the father was there waiting for the son everyday and I get the impression he was out there looking, waiting for the day when his son returned. That is like our heavenly Father, if you run away from Him, He will patiently wait for you to return. He will wait until you come to the end of yourself, when you get tired of eating pig slop and return to Him and there He is with open arms welcoming you home!

2. Now look at what the Lord is doing here because this is interesting to me. God is not going to allow Egypt to wipe Judah out, but He is going to allow them to oppress Judah. Now why in the world would the Lord do that? I think God was trying to show them that serving Him is far better than serving earthly kings. You see the contrast that is placed before them, a holy and merciful God versus a wicked and cruel earthly king. It is as Clarke put it, "They shall be preserved, and serve their enemies, that they may see the difference between the service of God and that of man. While they were pious, they found the service of the Lord to be *perfect freedom*; when they forsook the Lord, they found the fruit to be *perfect bondage*. A sinful life is both expensive and painful."

3. I am not sure why but there are times when we tend to think that the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, and it may be true at times, but as one man put it, their water bill is a lot higher and they use a lot more manure! Think about it this way, do we need anything else but the Lord? If we serve anyone else the cost is a lot higher and what you get back will perish or fade away. Before we were saved we served Satan, and talk about being in bondage. I do understand that many people would not agree with that, they would never serve Satan. But if you are not serving the Lord, then you are serving Satan! When we came to Christ, accepted that free gift of salvation, no longer were we in bondage, but free in Christ. Now tell me, who do you really want to serve? Do you really want to go back to the pig slop?

Remember after Jesus had spoken on some difficult issues and many of His disciples went away and in John 6:67-69 we are told, **“Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”** Folk’s, never forget that fact, that Jesus has the words of eternal life, there is nowhere else to go, there is no one else to go to!

VERSES 9-12

1. Remember that Solomon made 200 large shields and 300 smaller shields of gold, and placed them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon. Now Shishak takes these shields and Rehoboam makes bronze shields to replace the gold ones that were taken. What is interesting to me is that back in 1939 archeologists discovered in Egypt the account of this event. We are told that they took 169 of the cities in Judah and plunder the wealth of the nation. The Sarcophagus of this king was silver and plated with gold. This could have been the gold he took from Jerusalem.

Now think about what has taken place here. There were these impressive gold shields that were more of decoration than anything else and they were impressive. But now we have these bronze shields and they are worthless. But you could polish them up and make them shinny so that from a distance it may give the appearance of gold. And we see Rehoboam going through all the motions, making it look like nothing has happened, and yet it was worthless and their activity was empty. Many today do like Rehoboam did. They polish up their flesh, they go through all the religious activities, all the motions, but they are worthless and are empty. You can fake a relationship with the Lord, and fool some people, but you can't fool God.

On this issue Knapp made these remarks, “Rehoboam made in their stead shields of bronze, and with these pathetically tried to keep up former appearances. It is like souls, who, when despoiled of their freshness and power by the enemy, laboriously endeavor to keep up an outward appearance of spiritual prosperity; or, like a fallen church, shorn of its strength, and robbed of its purity, seeking to hide its helplessness, and cover its nakedness, with the tinsel of ritualism, spurious revivalism, union, and anything that promises to give them some appearance.”

And Morgan goes on to say, “The picture of Rehoboam’s substitution of brass for gold is unutterably pathetic. Yet how often do the people of Jehovah masquerade amid imitations because they have lost the things of pure gold through unfaithfulness and sin.”

Folk’s, you can’t hide anything from the Lord as Paul tells us in Hebrews 4:12-13, **“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”** May we not forget that and just repent and get right with Him for He is waiting for us to do that if we have walked away from Him!

2. Now think of all the wealth that Solomon had acquired and now it is gone and I think Solomon was concerned about this because in Ecclesiastes 2:18-19 he wrote, **“Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.”** And here in Ecclesiastes you can clearly see the focus of Solomon, it was his money, his wealth and not a concern that his son might depart from the faith and judgment would come upon him and the nation, taking away this wealth! What a sad state he was in!

3. For Rehoboam, there were still some good things that took place in the land because there was a remnant of good in Judah and God honored that even though there was this loss of possessions and property in Judah!

VERSES 13-16

1. Why did Rehoboam do evil before the Lord? We don't have to guess because we are told that, "**... he did not prepare his heart to seek the LORD.**" God wants us to have a fixed heart. You see, you have to decide what is the most important thing, what the most precious thing in your life is. Is it the Lord or is it material possessions, whatever they may be? Is it this or that? And you need to be honest because, like I have said, God knows your heart. Rehoboam's heart was not fixed on the Lord, and thus the fruit of his life was evil. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**" That is something that you need to look at and make sure that your heart is prepared, is fixed upon the Lord!

Spurgeon evaluated this situation like this, "You see how readily Rehoboam went, first towards God, then towards idols, and then back again, towards God; *he was always ready to shift and change*, he wrought no great reforms in the land; we do not read that, he held a great passover, as Hezekiah did, or that the high places were taken away; but, as soon as Shishak was gone, he felt perfectly content. There was not anything real and permanent in his religion; it did not hold him. He held it sometimes, but it never held him."

Let me give to you an example of someone who did prepare his heart before the Lord. I want you to listen to how Moses prepared his heart before the Lord in Hebrews 11:24-26. And remember that Moses could have had it all; he was next in line to rule Egypt. Paul tells us here in Hebrews chapter 11, **“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”**

Moses did not focus on the earthly riches, the material possessions, which he called temporary. You see, he looked at the bigger picture and that is what was driving his life. He looked to the Lord and he looked to the reward, he looked to Jesus and eternal life with Him! Folk’s, it is as Jesus said in Matthew 16:26, **“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”** Today many have sold their souls for nothing and they have lost everything! Think about it. You can have it all. You can have material possessions. You can have money. You can have homes. You can have cars. You can have this and that but in the end, you can’t take it with you and that will be as good as it gets. But, if you come to Christ, this life is the worst that it will get for we will have an eternity with the Lord! Where is your heart this evening?

2. So with the death of Rehoboam, his son Abijah or Abijam will be on the throne in the Southern Kingdom of Judah and we will see next time that the acorn does not fall far from the tree. Abijah will be as wicked as his father was Rehoboam was!