

The Collapse of Unity: When Pride Ignores Wisdom

A New Leader, a Divided Nation

(vv. 1–5) After Solomon’s death, his son Rehoboam took the throne. When he traveled to Shechem to be confirmed as king, representatives from all Israel came with a plea: ***“Your father placed a heavy burden on us—if you lighten it, we’ll serve you.”***

Personal Application:

When stepping into leadership—whether in a workplace, ministry, or home—the first challenge is often listening. Rehoboam had a chance to unify people through humility and understanding. I’m reminded that leadership isn’t about power, but about people. Do I listen when others express real needs? Or do I shut them down to protect my pride?

Two Kinds of Counsel

(vv. 6–11) Rehoboam turned first to the older men who had advised Solomon. They wisely told him, ***“If you serve these people and answer them kindly, they will serve you forever.”*** But he rejected their counsel and turned instead to his peers—young men who grew up in privilege. They told him to get tough: ***“Say, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s waist!’”***

Personal Application:

There are always two kinds of voices speaking into my life: wise, seasoned ones... and impulsive, prideful ones. Which do I follow? It’s easy to be drawn toward voices that say what I want to hear, but wisdom often speaks what I *need* to hear. Am I surrounding myself with people who love God and speak truth? Or with those who stroke my ego?

Rehoboam Chooses Pride Over Peace

(vv. 12–15) Rehoboam chose the advice of his young counselors and answered the people harshly. He doubled down on control instead of showing compassion. As a result, the people rebelled and said, ***“What share do we have in David? To your tents, O Israel!”***

Personal Application:

Pride always divides. Instead of building bridges, it burns them. When I’m confronted with conflict, do I choose grace or power? A soft answer could turn away wrath (Proverbs 15:1), but pride digs in and demands submission. Am I building unity or causing division in my relationships—especially when things don’t go my way?

The Kingdom Splits

(vv. 16–19) Ten tribes broke away and crowned Jeroboam as king. Only Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to Rehoboam. In one reckless decision, Rehoboam turned a united kingdom into a divided one. And it was a turning point from which the nation never fully recovered.

Personal Application:

There are moments in life that change everything—moments when a decision made in pride or

14-Bible Reading Study Notes

2nd Chronicles Chapter 10

wisdom determines the road ahead. Rehoboam's story is a warning: short-term power grabs can lead to long-term loss. Are there places in my life where pride is threatening something valuable—my marriage, my family, my ministry, or my witness?

Final Reflection:

This chapter reminds me that wisdom isn't always flashy, but it is life-giving. Rehoboam could have secured the hearts of the people through humility and kindness. Instead, he ruled with arrogance, and the result was division and destruction.

Leadership without listening is dangerous.

Power without compassion is destructive.

And pride unchecked will always lead to downfall.

May I learn from Rehoboam's failure. In every area of influence God has given me—big or small—may I lead like Jesus: not lording over people, but loving them. Not dominating, but serving.