

Sunday School Lesson

MAY 4, 1947

By Dr. Paul Caudill



Topic: The Revolt of The Northern Tribe
Scripture: 1 Kings 12: 1-5, 12-15, 19-20.

The wrath of God fell swift and sure upon Solomon in his shameful apostasy. Jehovah had expressly commanded the children of Israel to refrain from taking wives from among the foreign women: "Ye shall not go among them, neither shall they come among you; for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." But Solomon, nevertheless, "clave unto these in love."

Solomon's Adversaries

Because of his apostasy Jehovah said unto Solomon, "Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it, for David thy father's sake; but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but I will give one tribe to thy son, for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen" (1 Kings 11:11).
Jehovah raised up therefore unto Solomon many adversaries. There was Hadad, the Edomite, who was of the king's seed in Edom; Rezon, the son of Eliada, and likewise Jeroboam, the son

of Nebat. When king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute, forward on his mission he was stoned by all Israel with stones, and died. Upon learning of this Rehoboam "made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem."

Rehoboam the King

When Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who was in Egypt, heard that Rehoboam reigned as king instead of Solomon his father, he and all the congregation of Israel came and spake unto Rehoboam saying "Thy father made our yoke grievous; now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee."

Rehoboam instructed Jeroboam to depart for three days with the assurance that after that time he would give him an answer to his petition. Following this Rehoboam consulted with the old men who had stood before Solomon his father and they in turn advised him to be "a servant" unto his people with the assurance that they would in turn be his servants forever.

If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, then will they be thy servants forever" (1 Kings 12:7). Truly, Rehoboam had the opportunity of a lifetime. The elders by their cordial words of counsel already stood pledged to him, and were bold enough to pledge to him the lasting devotion of the people themselves—provided he would meet certain reasonable requirements.

But the spirited young Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the old men and followed instead the advice of the young men who had grown up with him. He said therefore to the people when they gathered on the third day for the answer, "My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

Israel's Rebellion

It was a tense moment in the life of Israel when Rehoboam gave his answer to Jeroboam and those who had gathered in waiting. In fact, relations were so strained that when all Israel saw that the king harkened not unto them, the people answered the king saying, "What portion have we in David? Neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents" (1 Kings 12:16). Rehoboam continued to reign, nevertheless, over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah.

When king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute, forward on his mission he was stoned by all Israel with stones, and died. Upon learning of this Rehoboam "made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem."

The division had come. Israel had rebelled against the house of David. "And it came to pass when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was returned, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe only" (1 Kings 12:20).

It will be recalled that the Lord had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat saying, "Thus saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee: (But he shall have one tribe for my servant David's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel); because that they have forsaken me and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon: and they have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and mine ordinances, as did David his father" (1 Kings 11:31-33).

Slowly, and surely, therefore, the way was paved for the division of the kingdom, and for the tragic eras of jealousy, rivalry and strife that followed. With kings that stubbornly refused to follow the guidance of Jehovah their God there could be no other end. Even kings, as well as all other individuals irrespective of rank and station, must face the verdict of Paul's immortal words: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life" (Gal. 6:7).

From Bad To Worse

It was bad enough to have the division that came with the revolt of the ten tribes under Jeroboam, but the conditions that prevailed following the revolt were still worse. Upon his return to Jerusalem, Rehoboam assembled "all the house of Judah" for the purpose of going to war with his brethren of Israel in the hope of subduing the rebellious tribes and bringing them all together again under his own kingship. The word of God came to Rehoboam, however, through Shemiah, "the man of God," and the tragedy of the impending civil strife was narrowly averted.

Likewise, the conduct of Jeroboam, following the rebellion, brought shame and reproach upon the people of Israel. In order to satisfy the desires of the people who were unable to go up to Jerusalem to worship, two calves of gold were made and set up, the one in Dan and the other in Bethel.

"And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan." (1 Kings 12:30).

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The undersigned, having qualified as administratrix of the estate of Mrs. Mary Church, dec'd., late of Wilkes county, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned administratrix on or before the 7th day of April, 1948, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All parties indebted to said estate will make prompt payment to the undersigned administratrix.
This 7th day of April, 1947.
MRS. MARGARET SHELL,
Admrx. estate of Mrs. Mary Church, dec'd. 5-15(7)

Interest In Sewing On The Increase Among Members

Interest in sewing is steadily increasing among rural girls. This is reflected in an announcement that 1,345 counties in 45 states named winners in the 1946 National 4-H Clothing Achievement awards program, or a gain of 144 counties over the preceding year.

The 1947 program comprises special training for 4-H Club girls in planning, selecting, constructing, repairing and caring for clothing. They learn to dress appropriately, becomingly and healthfully, in keeping with the family budget. The girls are also encouraged to make useful articles of wearing apparel and accessories by crocheting, knitting or other needlecraft arts. Outstanding records of achievement in this activity are again being recognized by the Spool Cotton Educational Bureau with merit awards. County winners receive gold-filled medals of honor. The state winner gets an all-expense trip to the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago next

Cemetery Working At Center Church

Saturday, May 3, two p. m., is the date set for the cemetery working at Center Baptist church. "If you have loved ones buried there and are interested in the cemetery please be there," the announcement said.

Support the Y. M. C. A.

December. Twelve state winners County winners were named in selected for national honors each 73 counties. In addition to 45 states, the 1947 4-H Clothing contest is being conducted in Alaska, Hawaii winner in North Carolina was and Puerto Rico, under the direction of the Extension Service.

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