

**Wednesday, May 25, 2022 ▫ Read 1Kings 14:21–31**

Questions from the Scripture text: Who was king in Judah (v21)? At what age? For how long? Where? Why is this special? Who was his mother (cf. Gen 4:22)? Where was she from? Who did what? In Whose sight? To what did they provoke Him? How much? What did they do, where? What were there in the land (v24)? Similar to whom? What had happened to the originals? What happened in the fifth year of Rehoboam (v25)? What did Shishak do with the treasuries (v26)? What else did he take? With what did Rehoboam replace them (v27)? Who oversaw them? When did the guards carry them (v28)? What did they do after? What weren't important enough to make it into this account (v29)? What additional footnote does v30 add? What two things happen to Rehoboam in v31? With whom? But who is mentioned again (cf. v21)? Who reigned in his place?

After the folly of Rehoboam in aligning with his “youth group,” and the God-hating of Jeroboam in following his own way of worship, what does the Lord want us to take away from Rehoboam’s reign as a whole? 1Kings 14:21–31 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these eleven verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that the consequences of seemingly small sins (even when appearances are kept up of faithfulness) can snowball into devastation for families, churches, and nations (even when appearances are kept up of prosperity).

Previously, the Lord taught us about some of the things to which He might give us over, if He is bringing curse down upon us (cf. 12:1–24). Now the Lord both reminds us of why He gave Rehoboam over to such folly in the first place, and warns us of how devastating the consequences can be.

The disastrous reign of Rehoboam is a consequence of Solomon’s sin.

By framing in the narrative with “His mother’s name was Naamah, an Ammonitess” in v21 and v31, the Spirit reminds us what Solomon had done. He had married many foreign women (cf. 11:1), and they turned his heart away from Yahweh (cf. 11:2). Indeed, if David’s son had gone after Milcom (11:5) and Molech (11:7) of the Ammonites, what could be expected of Rehoboam son of Solomon and an Ammonite woman?

The disaster of Rehoboam’s reign is immense.

God’s delivering the nation/church of Israel for Himself had been a glorious victory over wicked Egypt to bring them out of slavery, and a glorious victory over the wicked Canaanite nations to bring them into their land. But now, the land is so full of idolatry (v23) and perversity (v24a) that Judah has become Canaan 2.0 (v24b). Being given over to the sins of the world is a devastating judgment upon a professing church or previously believing nation!

And to drive home the judicial/penal nature of this disaster, it is Shishak king of Egypt (v25) who now empties the treasuries of Yahweh’s house and the king’s house (v26a) and removes the golden shields (v26b). Here were the great successes of Solomon: the building of Yahweh’s house (cf. chs. 6–8), the building of the king’s house and other structures (7:1–11), and the installation of the economic machine that had produced these opulent display shields (10:14–29). Israel had plundered Egypt on their way out (cf. Gen 15:14; Ex 3:21–22, 12:36), and now Egypt has plundered the greatest of Solomon’s achievements in one fell swoop.

Still, Rehoboam tried to keep up appearances of faithfulness and prosperity.

Rather than repenting of all of the false worship and immorality into which he and his father led Israel, Rehoboam made a big display of whenever he “went to Yahweh church” (v28a). And rather than admitting how humiliating the reversal of the Exodus judgment/plundering had been, he substituted “fool’s bronze” to maintain some appearance of doing well (v27). Just because we’ve actually come under such judgments as those against which this passage warns doesn’t mean that the church or nation that is under the judgment will recognize it!

So in our passage today, the Lord drives home just how much good, and how long a church or nation’s prosperity, can be undone so quickly by the consequences of not being watchful against sin in marriage choices or worship. Let us who think we stand take heed lest we fall!

What are some ways that believers make similar marriage and worship choices to Solomon’s and Rehoboam’s? Why do churches under judgment sometimes still appear faithful or alive?

Sample prayer: Lord, how dreadful that even after idolatry and perversion like Canaanites, Rehoboam could make a display of worship in Your temple. And even after being plundered by Egypt, Rehoboam could make display of ongoing prosperity and strength. Forgive our sin, and do not let our treacherous marriage choices or traitorous worship choices come down upon us or our children. Whenever You bring Your hand of discipline upon us, grant that we would be humiliated and repentant rather than proud and self-deceived, which we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP51B “From My Sins, O Hide Your Face” or TPH180 “Kind and Merciful God, We Have Sinned”

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpcHAH

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

First Kings, 14, verses 21 through 31. These are God's words and rear bone. The son of Solomon reigned in Judah rebound, was 41 years old. When he became king, He reigned 17 years in Jerusalem, the city, which you always had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel.

To put his name there. His mother's name was Naama and I'm anitis. Now Judah did evil in the sight of Yahweh and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they committed more, then all their fathers had done for they also built for themselves. I places sacred pillars and would an 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 Yahweh had cast out before the children of Israel, It happened in the fifth year of King Riaboam that she shack. King of Egypt came up against Jerusalem and he took away the treasures of the House of Yahweh and the treasures of the King's Health.

It took away everything. He also took away all the gold shields, which Solomon had made. Then King Riobo made bronze shields in their place and committed them to the hands of the captains of the guard who guarded, the doorway of the king's house. And whenever the king entered the house of Yahweh, the guards carried them.

Then brought them back into the guard room. Now the rest of the acts of rehoboam and all that he did or they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah and there was war between Rehoboam and Jerome older days. So rehoboam rested with his father's and was buried with his father's in the city of David.

His mother's name was Naama an ammonitis. Then obesem his son rained in his place So far the reading of God's inspired and and errant work.

Real bone was the Sun of Solomon. There's the Sun of the wisest, wealthiest king in the world at the time. That Israel, whatever have and yet, we've already read how God in order to fulfill a threat made against Solomon. That would be fulfilled during ribbone's days gave rehoboam over to youth culture.

Mentality deciding with the opinions and attitudes of those with whom, he was growing up and identifying with them more than he identified with God's Word and failing to avail himself of that counterbalance that God gives us in putting us in a multi-generational construct in his church. So that we would have the wisdom of those who have walked with God, and hopefully by his word, but at least experiencing the world differently and longer than we have.

And so we've already had a little bit about rehoboam describing to us how it was that. Someone with all of the advantages of a son of Solomon could suddenly find himself ruling the weaker kingdom that if they had gone to war with the Northern Kingdom as the Lord prevented them at first from doing, although we read at the end here that there were wars between Rhea Bowman and Jerome all their days But if they had if they had had that full out war that the southern kingdom would be wiped out and we even have the comparative weakness of Jeroboam.

You can see by looking at the two summary statements 14. Verse 19. Now, the rest of the act of Jeroboam how he made war and how he reigned. Okay. So there's this subtle acknowledgment that there was a notable warring and reigning that are being ignored and the biblical account because the heart unto God, and the participation in God's church in the earth is greater all than the warring and the reigning.

But Rehoboam doesn't even have that. Look at the compare. The the similar or analogous line about real bone in verse 29. Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the Kings of Judah. Okay.

So he did some stuff but I wasn't warring like Gerald Bomb. And it wasn't raining like Jeroboam, but all the stuff he did. That didn't matter either. What mattered is that he didn't do as his fathers had done in this case, meaning, especially David and Solomon. But those godly fathers for instance, Abraham in comparison to the Canaanites who was who are around Abraham.

How do we know that? That is because he the what the Lord has commenting isn't just that he didn't do as his father's had done or Judah under him. Didn't do as their fathers had done verse 22 but also that they did as bad as all the abominations of the nations, which you always had cast out before the children of Israel verse 24.

Okay, so it was. Did they honor and obey the Lord? Or did they commit idolatry in their worship and perversion and violence and theft and all those other things in how they treated one another. So basically what the Lord gives Israel in the Ten Commandments which can be summarized in the two great commandments is still, There's always has been still is today that by which he judges nations that by which he judges families that by which he judges people Do, they love the Lord, their God Do they love the Lord, their Creator.

And if you're not covenant people I guess you can't use the phrase their God in the same way. But do they love the Lord God with all their hearts, on my mind and strength? They keep the first table of the law. He's the one who gets to define what that is.

That means worshiping Him only in his and the actions that he has commanded with a heart that is regarding him appropriately and especially recognizing that which he has built into the creation since the creation, the one day in seven, It's obligatory upon all nations, It wasn't just on Israel, It's very interesting story.

We could tell you about the trying to get out of the one day and seven that happened during, because during the French Revolution, another time. But then do they honor parents on the image of God by not murdering on her marriage. Honor God's assignment and deporting out of property on our truthfulness and faithfulness to your Word and justice.

And honor God with contentedness the last six commandments. There, real bone, and Judah under him failed. In all of these things and they failed because God was giving him over and giving the nation of her to what Solomon deserved. We knew that this is going to happen when you that the kingdom was going to be divided.

Because God had told Solomon that because of his sin, the kingdom was going to be divided. We knew that it was going to be utterly ruinous and we are reminded of that here. He doesn't just tell us that

Rehoboam was the son of Solomon and that he reigned he reminds us that there was not in the original terms of the deal between the Lord and the kings, and

the Lord, and the kingdom, to have this two kingdom two capitals arrangement, he reigned 17 years in Jerusalem, the city which Yahweh had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel to put his name there.

And yet now the people of Israel are divided into two. So there's a reminder this is because of what was threatened and now has been carried out against Solomon and then the cause of it. His mother's name was Nyama and ammonitis. Now, you may remember from the children of Limick, the wicked from the line of Cain in Genesis chapter 4 that Namah means pretty one.

Just like she had brothers, who were very successful in the things of the world, You know, fathers of agricultural. Advancements technological metallurgical, advancements and so forth. Even artistic advancements and yet it was the line of Cain. And what does all the worldliness worldly? Success of the line of Cain matter when they are the spiritual line of Cain.

And yeah and God's providence Solomon didn't have the wisdom. I mean, when you're marrying, a thousand women, you know, you're not exercising a whole lot of wisdom, right? But he didn't recognize. Hmm, maybe I shouldn't marry a woman named Nyama That name, okay? It has really negative connotations attached to it, and the theological, and spiritual history of the world.

But then again, if you're not, if you're not put off by the fact that she's an ammonitis, then you're probably not going to be put off by the fact that her name is pretty. But God wants us to see it because he comes back and tells us after. He gives us the death and burial formula.

Rio bone rested with his father's and his was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And he repeats it again, at the end of the passage, he makes a bookends around the passage so that we can see that. It was the sin of Solomon in the worst and not in the worst.

Well worship choices too. Because the sin of Solomon in his marriage choices, he married outside the people of God. He married an ammonitis and God had told him. If you marry foreign women, that will turn your heart away from me. And then we had of course, the summary statement that Solomon had married foreign women and that they turned his heart away from Yahweh.

The beginning of chapter 11 of first came. So the disastrous reign of Rehoboam is a consequence of Solomon's sin, and then, we've already started to see just how great this disaster was of the disastrous rain. Not just what happened in the weakening of the southern kingdom. Although there is that.

But first the moral disaster, They provoke the did evil and the sight of Yahweh. They provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they committed more than all that. Their fathers had done. So not only was Rhea Bone not like his fathers David and Solomon and back to Abraham like we mentioned before but he was worse and Judah under him was worse than all of their fathers.

You say, well how bad can that be? Well, it can be so bad that at the end of judges, you remember the things were in the land of Benjamin, remember the, the Levite in the concubine and the men of the city and, and, and that whole deal that almost led to the well did lead to the first, you know, major civil war in established Israel.

And it was kind of at the end of judges. The Holy Spirit was saying, you think Sodom was bad? Well, the people of God are able to reproduce the sin of Sodom That name that was a you know a byword or a an epithet, a almost like a swear word that you would use for how bad people are sodomite and now it is.

And actually it's used like that in the Bible too. Kind of how in the New Testament culture, they use the word Corinthian to mean sodomite among other things. But God, now says here, that things under rehoboam got so bad so quickly that they did even worse in Judah than they were doing.

At the end of judges, we cannot underestimate the speed and immensity of the decline. That comes from unchecked sin in a life or a family or a nation. It is desperately important that we keep up the daily and weekly worship of God. Not just so that we can go through outward motions, that we think, somehow will in, and of themselves prevent things, but because God has given us to worship Him, by knowing Him, by coming to him through the sacrifice that has paid for our sins and who paid for our sins.

Sophia God, paid first. And how did he do that? Ezekiel, How did God pay for our sins? But I'm on the cross. I dying on the cross for our sins. And every time we come as a family to worship Him Every kind time, we gather as a congregation to worship Him, We're having driven back home to us, the greatness of the offensiveness of the sin unto God and the greatness of the forgiveness and the sacrifice the righteousness of Jesus that allows us even to come to him and the life of Jesus that has given to us that that we may be able to worship Him.

And we are renewed in our turning against the sin and then our trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ. And this is necessary for a lot of reasons, but one of the reasons for which it is necessary is because of how quickly our life can go down. The moral drain How quickly a family is life.

A household's life. Can go down the moral drain, a church's life, a nation's life. And here we have all of those in the life of Rehoboam in the family of Solomon in the church and nation of Judah. And God immediately immediately shows what he thinks of it. It happened in the fifth year of King Riabone.

She shot King of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. You remember all the chapters that were spent on the greatness of Solomon's, wisdom and wealth and building projects and the building of the temple and the building of his house and the treasuries of the temple and the treasuries of his house and the annual filling and overflowing of the treasuries of the temple and the annual filling and overflowing of the Treasuries of his house.

Well, in year, five of Rehoboam God brings one Pharaoh, she shack, and he empties the treasuries of the temple. Any empties, the Treasuries of the palace. And that's it. Now don't don't let it be lost on you that it was a pharaoh as a king of Egypt. Remember when God was showing his greatness over against all other gods.

Remember when God was showing how easily he can give His little people, the treasures of the whole world, which he had concentrated in Egypt and then he gave his tiny little people to plunder Egypt, and take all the treasure of Egypt out with them. Do you see the judgment implied?

Even in the one whom he chose to empty the Treasuries of the temple to empty the Treasuries of the palace. You see God saying here like he did with Jeroboam. And in the comparison with Jerobrone Ribbum How easy it is for him to give His people everything. Now easy it is for him to take away everything.

If we don't think that he is everything he must be. Everything does. And if he is everything to us, then we don't need anything else, right? Like ASAP says whom have I in heaven. But you what else? Could I desire on earth beside you? He may give us a whole bunch more stuff.

Praise God. Like he had given to Solomon and then we've got all those means by which to enjoy him. And all those means by which to serve him that he himself must be everything to us now. What do you think? Ria. Bowen. Did he has an opportunity, right? This has been utterly disastrous, even the gold shields are

gone.

That catches Rio bones eye, he doesn't say, look at all the disaster that has come upon us because of my father's sin and through the means of my further sin and my foolishness. O, Lord. Forgive me. Forgive me for the sins of my Father. Forgive me for continuing in them myself.

Forgive me for being a tyrant to your people and having the foolishness of, of rejecting the wisdom of the wise and surrounding myself. With my peers who were telling me what they thought I wanted to hear, no, he doesn't. Repent at all. He tries to keep up appearances, they got worshipping all the high places, they've got the worship of all these gods, lowercase G, that aren't God's at all.

The that the worst who's worship has been imported by means of women, whom Solomon, married. They got all those things but rebellum still goes to church. He's still goes to Grandpa's old church, you know, David's church for which his dad Solomon, led the building project. So there's all this false worship going on, but, you know, real bones still goes to the temple, still makes the big scene of the king's entrance to the temple Problem.

You can't go in and out with the gold shields like Solomon did after he built the temple and had all that left over gold and all the excess gold. That was coming in every year. Somebody keeps up the family tradition. We don't have gold anymore but we do have bronze after all bronze and silver.

We're like stones in Israel during Daddy's reign, right? So there's a there's a fair amount left over bronze, so they he makes the replacement bronze shields. You know inflation. So we'll do what we what we can. He tries to keep up religious appearances and he tries to keep up prosperity appearances.

You know, we may be crumbling morally and spiritually and still think that we're religiously, okay? Because we're still doing a lot of the same things are fathers did, and we may be crumbling even in what God takes away from us economically prospero in our prosperity. What God takes away from us?

Culturally we may be crumbling but we may still try to keep up appearances. Even in that way, this nation is a shell of itself in every way, shape and form. And still, there are a lot of people who think, or at least act like not that much has been lost.

Like it's just gonna go on forever.

Well, the church is also a shell of itself and yet it keeps up traditions and keeps up appearances. And the danger is that you were I might be a shell that imitates. What our forefathers in the faith, had with the Lord, but it's bronze and the place of gold.

And it's not actually an indication of how we are still in the favor of God. It's a reminder by comparison that we are under the disciplined and curse of God. Rio bone didn't have ice to see it but oh my god. Help us that wherever that's true in our individual lives.

Our family life or church life that we would be able to see it. He would turn us as we'll see, Lord willing next week, when we consider how it got worse with a Besum and then suddenly in the surprising grace of God, just because he's pleased to and he's made promises and he still bringing Jesus, the son of David into the world.

He suddenly brings in Acer, but more more of that next week. Lord willing. Let's pray. Our Father in heaven. Please help us because we know that we have the capacity for self-deception that rehoam had even as he kept up religious and prosperity appearances. When in response to Solomon's sin and through rear bombs ongoing unrepentants your people and their nation had been spiritually and morally and economically.

Got it. Oh Lord. We thank you that you are all that we need in heaven and earth for you are not in having an earth and it all belongs to you, and you are more than all of it put together. And you are pleased to give a wise and good portion of it onto us for right enjoyment and right use in your service.

And so, we pray that these family worship times and our private worship times, and the public courtship on the Lord's days, you would bring us to new repentance from our sin new faith in. Jesus Christ, new rejoicing that we have. You new service and obedience unto you with the whole of our lives Grant to it.

Even now that we would live in repentance and faith and the rest of this day, we ask In Jesus' name, amen.