



Message Guide

FOR JUNE 1, 2025

"CHOICES-3": THE WRONG CHOICE



1 Kings 12:1-14; Matthew 1:7

RICK GROVER,
LEAD PASTOR

We are in the third week of our series "A Story of Choices", where we're back in the exciting account of the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1. We're in part two of Jesus' family tree, and we're learning not only the history leading up to the coming of the Messiah, but how these stories connect with our stories and the choices we have to make.

Life is full of choices. Where do you send your kids to school? What job should you take? Should you marry that person or not? If your spouse has cancer, what treatment options are there, and what are you going to choose to do?

1. When have you been confronted with a difficult choice to make but you did not know what to do?

Whatever life choices you may be facing right now, the question is, "HOW?" How do we make the right choice? The person we're taking a look at this week from Jesus' family tree is Rehoboam from Mt. 1:7— "*And Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah....*" (**Matthew 1:7, ESV**).

We're first introduced to Rehoboam in 1 Kings 11:43 where we simply have what is repeated in what we just read in Mt. 1:7— "*And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place*" (**1 Kings 11:43, ESV**).

The very next thing we read about Rehoboam who reigned in his father's place—his father who was an amazing king who expanded the Israel Empire. 1 Kings 4 tells us that, "*Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea.... Solomon also had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen.... And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure.... He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005*" (**1 Kings 4:20, 26, 29, 32, ESV**).

Right out of the gate, Rehoboam had to DECIDE. He had to make a decision. It was a defining moment for him and for the future of Israel. Was he just going to stay in the shadow of his father, or was he going to make his mark and prove that HE DESERVED to be king, and He was going to show people that he was in power?

That sets up our text in 1 Kings 12.



Message Guide

FOR JUNE 1, 2025

All Israel had come to Shechem to make him king, and the people had one request: Make life better for us than what it was like under your father's rule! As Solomon went about expanding the kingdom of Israel, he did so at great expense of slave labor, heavy taxation, and the people saw this change in power as a glimmer of possible hope!

So, does Rehoboam ease the burden his father placed on the people of Israel or continue in the policies of his father of hard service and a heavy yoke? **Read 1 Kings 12:6-11, ESV.**

Counsel was sought—two opposing ideologies—and Rehoboam had to decide.

2. How do you typically discern between good and bad advice when making important decisions?

3. How would you feel if you knew ahead of time the consequences of the hard choices you had to make?

"You do the best you can with what you know at the time. But just because you did the best you could, doesn't mean it's the best that could have been done." (Alan Ahlgrim)

So, what choice did Rehoboam make? *And the king answered the people harshly, and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, 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." So, the king did not listen to the people....* **(1 Kings 12:12-15a, ESV).**

And then the Kingdom was divided. The people of Israel abandoned Rehoboam and started their own kingdom of Israel, and the last part of v. 20 says, *"There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only"* **(1 Kings 12:20b, ESV).**

We all face consequences from the decisions we make. So, how can we make the right decisions? Isn't that what we all want? To marry the right person? To take the right job? To choose the right option for that medical treatment?

Key Takeaway: To make the right choice, listen to the right people. Put yourself in Rehoboam's shoes. Do you listen to the "old men" who were your father's advisors? If so, then won't you always be under the thumb of your father's reign, even though his body is decaying in a king's tomb outside the city gates? You'll never make your mark! You'll never be free! Or do you choose from your friends, "the young men [you] had grown up with"? You trust them. They're your friends!



Message Guide

FOR JUNE 1, 2025

4. Who are you listening to? In our age of algorithms set to feed us only what we already have decided we want to hear and read; how do we make sure we're listening to the right voices? What do you believe is the source of wisdom?

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:6, ESV)

Listen to the right people. Seek wisdom. Don't play the fool's game as did Rehoboam. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."* (Proverbs 3:5-6, ESV)

The Lord will make our paths straight. But how do we know which medical treatment to choose? Which school to send our kids to? Which job to take? There is wisdom in following a process of discernment that Rehoboam failed to take: **The Word of God → The Spirit of God → The People of God → Faith**

Rehoboam never sought the Lord. He didn't rely on God's Spirit. He definitely did not listen to God's people. And his faith was only in himself and his friends, and it led to disaster.

5. What decision are you facing right now? Our peace in making the best decision we can flows out of the One who gives us peace, Jesus Christ. Where are you in your relationship with Him?

Our mission as a church is, Helping people take next steps with Jesus. The best decision you will EVER make is the decision to follow Jesus now and forever.