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1 Kings 12:1-24 (ESV) 15 Minutes

**Unwise Decisions With Serious Consequences**

***1 Kings 12:1-24***

**Topic:** Decisions

**Subject:** What happens when you ignore God’s counsel?

**Complement:** Making your own choices leads from bad to worse.

**Purpose:** The listeners will listen to God’s counsel to avoid serious consequences in their lives.

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| **Intro:**1: Arouse interest by sharing personal experiences.  | My father served in the Indian Army (1970-1976), but he ran away from the Army without waiting for retirement. Because of that he suffered personal and family trials. He faced consequences throughout his life for the decision he made. Deciding without much thinking is dangerous!!   |
| 2: Raise Need | What is the biggest regret in your life? What are the consequences you faced because of the choice you made? We need to reflect and think seriously about what will happen in the future because of the choices we make today.  |
| 3: Subject Restatement | What happens when you ignore God’s counsel? What are the consequences when we don’t follow the LORD’s guidance? |
| 4: Background | Solomon ruled wisely for many years, but he turned away from the LORD in his latter years. So what happened after Solomon’s death? How much of his wisdom passed onto his sons? |
| 5: Preview R, Passage  | Today’s passage in 1 Kings 12:1-24 will show us three serious consequences when we don’t follow God’s counsel. When you ignore God’s counsel, you make bad choices, have ungodly influences, and face the consequences. First, when you don’t follow God’s counsel… |
| T, **MPI** RSP “A & B” | ***You make bad choices.*** Your decisions are unwise—you do stupid stuff! Let’s read verses 1-11. We see here Israel asked Rehoboam to help them and they are ready to serve him but he made a choice by listening to young men and treated them badly. Though he consulted old men and young men, he was the one who made a bad choice. In order to make the right choice, we need to follow God's counsel with a clear conscience.  |
| Explanation  | Rehoboam was not willing to serve Israel and he wanted them to suffer. It was good to get counsel from the old men and young men but he did not listen to the old men’s counsel for the good welfare of the people. He took the counsel of young men because of his desire to make them suffer.  |
| Illustration(Christ) | James 4:6 God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Matt.23:12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. A perfect example is Jesus Christ in Phil 2:5-11. |
| Application (Humble yourself) | Are you humble or proud? We need to humble ourselves to get counsel from God. When you are proud, you make bad choices.  |
| **MPII,** RSP “A & B” | So what happens when you don’t follow God’s counsel? Besides making bad choices, ***you make choices with ungodly influences.*** When we don’t follow God’s counsel we are already influenced by ungodly people. We don’t think about the future consequences and think only for the moment. Though we may get good counsel, our mind is darkened by the evil one.  |
| Explanation  | Rehoboam rejected the counsel from old men which asked him to serve Israel first and they will be your servant later on but he accepted the young men advice to treat them badly heavier than his father Solomon. The advice given by old men followed biblical principle but he did not follow it.  |
| Illustration (Friends) | I followed bad influences by my friends when I was young—but also good influences in my life my friends. For example, I went to Bible camp which was influenced by my friend.  |
| Application(Influence) | Are you influenced by bad company or bad stuff? When ignoring God's counsel we are influenced by bad company—but only through God, we will get the best counsel. Are you influenced by others for good or bad? |
| **MPII**, RSP “A & B) | So what happens when you don’t follow God’s counsel? You make bad choices, and you make choices with ungodly influences. But thirdly, ***you make choices that lead to serious consequences.*** We face consequences for the choices we make. Because of our choices we make now, our future also may be at risk. Therefore, we need to make good choices so that we have a brighter future.  |
| Explanation  | Adoniram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor was stoned to death by Israel (12:18) but Rehoboam fled to Jerusalem. Subsequently, there was a division of kingdoms into the northern and southern. These are the consequences because of unwise decisions. Rehoboam had to suffer because he was unwilling to be humble for some time. So consequences continued for many generations.  |
| Illustration(Ministry busy & suffered) | When I disobeyed God or made my own choice, I always faced consequences. God disciplined me most of the time. For 7 years when I was a single staff, I was so busy giving everything for others, I was not taking care of myself, so I suffered both physically and spiritually.  |
| Application(Personal ministry experienced)  | How is your relationship with God? Are too busy with ministry activities that you don’t have fellowship with him? And so you neglect your family? If so, you will face consequences.  |
| Big T | So, the whole passage basically says what happens when you don’t follow God’s counsel…. |
| MI (I)R2 | Making your own choices leads from bad to worse. When you choose to follow your own will instead of God’s, then your situation will degenerate. |
| Applications (Wise counsel & warning)  | Listen to God’s counsel wisely and make the right choices. The best counsel is Jesus, so turn to him. Look for him. Don’t make a foolish decision. The choice you have taken now will impact even your children's generation. Be careful! |

# Study Questions (Step 1)

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### Solomon turns from the Lord loved many foreign women which the Lord had said to Israel “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they turn away your heart after their gods” 13:1,2.

### Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart has turned away from the Lord the God of Israel (11:9). And also, the death of Solomon and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place (11:43)

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### For us to learn from our ancestor's mistakes and listen to the experienced counsel.

### Taking a wrong decision in life has serious consequences. We have learned from the life of Rehoboam taking wrong decision and we saw his kingdom was divided into two northern and southern. The purpose of this passage is for us to take wise decision and also listened to the experienced people.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### After Solomon’s death, the northern tribes’ revolt, forming two separate nations. Each nation experiences disastrous consequences from having evil kings.

### As Moses led the people out of slavery under the Egyptian pharaoh, Jeroboam now leads Israel out of “slavery” under the house of David. But rather than being a second Moses, Jeroboam soon begins to look like Aaron, as he fashions golden calves for Israel to worship. l (12:1-14:31).

# Sources:

### Tyndale Commentaries.

### Cornerstone Biblical Commentary.

### New American Commentary.

# Questions & Answers (cf. p. 22 #1)

### Who are the two groups of people Rehoboam asked for counsel?

* They are older men and young men.

### Whose advice did he take?

* He took the young men to advice which led him to downfall in his life.

### Why did Rehoboam choose Shechem to make him king (12:1)?

* He chose Shechem (Tell Balata, near modern Nablus) as a religious center associated with the patriarchs (Gen. 12:6; 33:18–20) and with the divine covenant which all the tribes reaffirmed through Joshua (Josh. 24).[[1]](#footnote-1)

### Rehoboam took the counsel of young men, not old men. What must be the reasons?

* Rehoboam took the counsel of the young men because he too was young and he takes decision with without much thinking but old men give him the wise advice but he refused to take, which led to the downfall of his kingdom. Wrong decision and not listening to the wise advice given by the experienced old men.[[2]](#footnote-2)

### What was the counsel of the older men?

* The elders tell him to give a “favorable” response. If he will serve the people, then they will serve him. They realize it is time to accede to the crowd’s wishes.[[3]](#footnote-3)

### Which are the two kingdoms divided?

* Israel the northern kingdom (Jeroboam) and Judah the southern kingdom (Rehoboam).

### Why do we need to take a wise decision?

* So that we will not face serious consequences.

### Whom do we go for counsel/advice when we are in a difficult situation?

* To mature and who has experienced in life, so to the older men according to the context of the text.

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Text

# Older Outlines of This Sermon Text or Outlines by Others (Books, Commentaries, etc.)

### Text

**Unwise Decisions With Serious Consequences**

***1 Kings 12:1-24***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The result of Rehoboam taking the counsel of the young rather than the old men was the division into two kingdoms (2 Kings 12).

# I. The counsel to Rehoboam by old men was to serve his people but by the young men was to discipline them (12:1-11).

## The counsel of the old men to Rehoboam was to serve the people so they would be his servants forever (12:1-7).

## The counsel of the young men to Rehoboam was to make their yoke heavier and discipline them with scorpions (12:8-11).

# II. The response of Rehoboam to the advice was to reject the old for the young men’s counsel (12:12-15).

## The response of Rehoboam to the old men's counsel was to speak harshly to the people and forsake their advice (12:12-13).

## The response of Rehoboam to the young men's counsel was to speak harshly to the people (12:14-15).

# III. The consequence of Rehoboam's unwise decision was the division into two kingdoms (12:16-24).

## Rehoboam reigned over Judah, the southern kingdom (12:16-18, 21-24).

## Jeroboam was made king over Israel, the northern kingdom (12:19-20).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will listen to God’s counsel to avoid serious consequences in their lives.

**Sermon Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)—Steps 5-6

# Introduction

### Interest: My father served in the Indian Army (1970-1976) but ran away from the service and faced the consequence of the choice he made.

### Need: What was the biggest regret in your life? What are the consequences you faced because of your wrong decision?

### Subject: What happens when you don’t follow God’s counsel?

### Background: Solomon turns from the Lord and Solomon’s death, and the northern tribes’ revolt, forming two separate nations.

### Preview: 1 Kings 12:1-24 will show us the serious consequences when we don’t follow God’s counsel.

### (The first thing that happens when you don’t follow God’s counsel is…)

# I. You make bad choices (1-11).

 [When you ignore God’s counsel, you end up making your own bad choices.]

## Rehoboam did not willing to serve his people (6-7; Humility).

## Rehoboam was willing to make his people suffered (8-11; Pride).

(The second thing that happens when you don’t follow God’s counsel is ....)

# II. You make choices with the ungodly influences (12-15).

 [When you ignore God’s counsel, you are influenced by ungodly people]

## Rehoboam rejected the wise advice from the old men (12-13; Friends).

## Rehoboam accepted the foolish advice from the young men (14-15; Influences).

(The third thing that happens when you don’t follow God’s counsel is....)

# III. You make choices that lead to serious consequences (16-24).

[ When you ignore God’s counsel, you end up with serious consequences from bad to worse]

## Adoram was killed by Israel and Rehoboam fled to Jerusalem (16-18; Ministry).

## The kingdom divided into the northern by Jeroboam and southern by Rehoboam (19-24; busy personal life).

**Conclusion**

### Making your own choices leads from bad to worse (MI).

###  (Restatement: When you don’t follow God’s counsel, you will make your own bad choices and bad influences and you will face serious consequences from bad to worse)

### You make choices with your own bad desires, bad influences and that leads to serious consequences (MPs).

### Listen to God’s counsel wisely and makes the right choices. The best counsel is Jesus, turns to him. Look for the best counsel for your life!! Don’t take a foolish decision. The choice you have taken now will impact your children's generation. Be careful!

1. D. J. Wiseman, [*1 and 2 Kings: an introduction and commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/totc09kius?ref=Bible.1Ki12.1-5&off=214&ctx=lomon%E2%80%99s+harsh+rule.+~He+chose+Shechem+(Te) Vol. 9. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press (1993), 151. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Barnes, W. H. [*1-2 Kings*](https://ref.ly/logosres/cstonecm11ki1?ref=Bible.1Ki12.1-20&off=4884&ctx=ative+and+immature.+~I+used+to+toy+with+t). P. W. Comfort, Ed. Vol. 4b. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. (2012).117. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Nashville, House, P. R. [*1, 2 Kings*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nac08?ref=Bible.1Ki12.6-11&off=79&ctx=o+sets+of+advisors.+~The+elders+tell+him+). Vol. 8. Broadman & Holman Publishers (1995).181. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)