

THE PRIDE OF REHOBOAM

2 Chronicles 10 – 12 (1 Kings 12 – 15)

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:5 "For God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble."

Lesson Aim: Turn from the sin of pride and seek to be humble..

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): John, Joe, and Jim played "king of the hill." Have any of you played "king of the hill?" It is a contest where each boy tries to stand on the top of a small hill by throwing the other boys off of it. After John tried several times to get to the top of the hill and stay there, he did it. Then he stuck out his chest, and yelled, "Now I am the king of the hill." Why do you think John stuck out his chest? (Give the children time to answer this question. Tell them that it was not wrong for John to be the king of the hill, but it was wrong for him to be proud and boast about it.)

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us God resists (stands against) the proud; but gives grace (gives help) to the humble. In other words, God does not help us when we are proud, but He does help us when we are humble. Why does God refuse to help the proud? (It is sinful to be proud so He will not help us to sin.) Why does God help the humble? (It is right to be humble; so God loves to help those who are doing what is right.) **Explanation of difficult words:**

"Resists" – stands against or refuses to help

"Proud" – a person that thinks he is better than others

"Gives grace" – gives help without being paid for it

"Humble" – a person that thinks others are better than he is (Phil 2:3)

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

The lesson today shows us that Rehoboam was proud and how God stood against him and allowed him to get into much trouble. (The following outline that is used in the lesson is given to help the teacher remember the main points but is not to be taught to the children. Simply tell the story to the children and make applications to their lives as you tell it.)

I. Rehoboam's Pride (10:1-17)

Rehoboam thought that he could do anything that he wanted when he became king and his nation would have to accept it. What are some of the things a king can do? (Let the children answer.) The people came to Rehoboam and asked him to reduce their taxes and they would serve him. Rehoboam went to his older counselors and they advised him to do what the people asked and they would be loyal to him. Then he went to his younger counselors and they told him to increase the taxes of the people to show them that they had no choice, but to obey him as their king. The advice of the younger men appealed to the pride of Rehoboam, so he told the people that he was going to increase their taxes. Ten of the tribes of Israel did not like what the king said, so they left him and made Jeroboam their king. Only two tribes stayed with Rehoboam. God resisted Rehoboam's pride and allowed most of his nation to leave him so they could choose another king to rule over them.

WE: We must stand against pride in our lives or God will stand against us. We must never get proud and think that we are better than our friend, our brother or our sister. A proud person believes others are born to serve them, but a humble person realizes that he is to be like Jesus, who helped many people and some of them did not even thank Him for doing it. God wants us to be humble. If you are humble, you will help others with their work. If you are humble, you will say "please" and "thank you." If you are humble, you will be kind to others when you speak to them and you will be gentle when you help them. Do not be a proud person like Rehoboam; be a humble person like Jesus Christ.

II. People's Anger (10:18-19)

Rehoboam was so blinded by his pride that he sent a man to collect taxes from the people that had left him. He still thought he was their king and he could take more of their money. His pride and selfishness made the people angry with him; he did not care how they felt. The people were so angry with Rehoboam for sending a tax collector to take more of their money that they threw stones at his tax collector and killed him. Rehoboam finally realized that the people would put up with him any longer. He quickly got into his chariot and rushed back to Jerusalem to save his life. God let these people punish Rehoboam for his

selfishness and pride because he deserved it. God punished Rehoboam by taking away much of his kingdom and source of wealth when only two of the twelve tribes remained with him.

WE: We learned that pride causes us to be blind to our sins and God may use some harsh things to open our eyes to see the danger of pride. That is what He did to Rehoboam before he fled to Jerusalem. We also have to be careful if we get angry at someone. It is easy for us to sin when we are angry. We may go too far with our anger and say or do things that we ought not say or do. If we get angry, it has to be against sin, not because our feelings got hurt. If we get angry because our feelings got hurt, we are being proud. We are proud whenever we try to make others do something to make us feel better.

III. God's Command (11:1-4)

Rehoboam was still proud when he went back to Jerusalem. He was going to punish all those tribes that had left him and would not pay their taxes. So he raised a large army to fight those ten tribes, but God sent a man to Rehoboam and the two tribes that remained with him. This man from God had a message from Him not to attack their brothers in the ten tribes. What they had done was permitted by Him, because Rehoboam was the guilty one. He was the trouble-maker. When they heard the message from the man of God, they obeyed God and did not attack their brothers.

WE: If we act in pride, God will not help us. In fact, He may even fight against us. We may say that others are wrong, and that may be true, but God will hold us most responsible because we started all the trouble with our pride. Do we want God's help? If so, we must stay away from pride.

IV. Rehoboam's Punishment (11:5 – 12:12)

When Rehoboam obeyed God, God allowed him to become strong once more (11:12, 17). However, when his kingdom became strong, Rehoboam returned to his pride. This time he decided not to obey God's law any longer and his kingdom did the same (12:1). So God allowed Shishak, the king of Egypt, to fight against him and conquer many of his cities with walls (12:2-4). Then God sent a prophet to Rehoboam and his princes to tell them that they had left Him, so He had left them. When they heard that, they humbled themselves and said the Lord is right (12:5-6). When God saw that they were humble, He did not let Shishak destroy their country (12:6, 7, 12), but He did make them servants to Shishak to teach them that it is much better to serve Him than the countries of the world (12:8). He let Shishak take away much of his riches (12:9).

WE: When we forget the Lord by staying away from Sunday school and church, or by not reading the Bible and praying, or by not giving some of our money to Him, we are going to be punished. The Lord will send trouble to us, just like He sent Shishak against Rehoboam (12:5). What must we do to keep from being punished by God? (Keep humble; confess our pride when we fail to be humble.) We must not wait until God starts to punish us before we humble ourselves. We must confess our pride as soon as we know we have sinned.

BE (for Action): We sin with pride when we live for ourselves and disobey God. We sin with pride when we ignore others and only do the things that please us. We are like Rehoboam. How did Rehoboam show his pride against God? (He did not obey the law of God.) How did he show his pride against people? (He was going to tax them more than his father.) What happened to Rehoboam because of his pride? (He lost a large part of his kingdom to Jeroboam and he lost a lot of his riches to Shishak.) What did Rehoboam do to keep from being completely destroyed? (He humbled himself.) We also have to humble ourselves when we act proudly against God or against others. How do we do that? Here is the answer:

1. Be sorry for your sin.
2. If you hurt someone with your sin, you must tell that person that you are sorry (James 5:16). If you do not, then you are showing that you are not really sorry for your sin.
3. Tell God exactly what you did wrong.
4. If you were truly sorry for your sins and you told God what you did wrong, you will be forgiven (1 John 1:9).

Ask the students if any of them have sinned and have not told God that they were sorry. Also ask if any of them have hurt others by their sins and have not told these people that they were sorry. Give an invitation for them to confess their sins to God. Offer to go with them to people that they have hurt, if they need your help. Also, ask how many of them want to be humble by staying away from sin and learning how to help others. Have them raise their hands. Then have them pray to God and tell Him what they want to do.