

Story: Rehoboam Establishes His Kingdom

Theme: Obeying God

Text: 2 Chronicles 11

Approximate Story Time: 2-3 minutes

Discussion Questions: 2

PBA Questions from Story: 10

Total PBA Questions: 23

## Rehoboam Establishes His Kingdom

After Rehoboam made his mistake by taking the wrong advice, he decided he would take back his kingdom, by force if necessary. He was still king over the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and managed to raise an army of one hundred eighty thousand men. With this army, he intended to attack Jeroboam and Israel and force them to submit to his rule. While his army was in training and Rehoboam was dreaming of once again being ruler of all Israel, he was visited by Shemaiah the man of God. Shemaiah had received word from God and he passed the message on to Rehoboam. Shemaiah said 'Thus says the LORD: "You shall not go up or fight against your brethren! Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me."'" Now Rehoboam had another decision to make. The Bible doesn't say whether or not he asked advice of anyone, but I would guess if he did, he listened to the experienced elders who had served Solomon. He certainly made the correct decision, because he obeyed the words of the LORD and did not attack Jeroboam.

Once Rehoboam turned back from attacking Israel, he began to build up the defenses of Judah. Egypt under King Shishak, was taking aggressive actions in the region, so Rehoboam built fifteen fortified cities in the southern and western part of Judah. He furnished these strongholds with soldiers and stores of food, oil, wine, and arms of shields and spears.

While Rehoboam was building the defenses of Judah, God was working in Israel. Jeroboam had set up idols in the form of golden calves for the nation of Israel to worship. He was afraid his people would travel to Jerusalem to worship God and decide that Rehoboam was a better ruler. God, however, had some loyal followers in the priest and Levites who lived in the Northern Kingdom. Instead of going along with the new order of worship set up by Jeroboam, they moved to Judah. These faithful servants of God strengthened Judah and helped the new country remain true to God for three years. While Judah obeyed God, Rehoboam was strong for those three years.

Rehoboam married eighteen wives and had sixty concubines. He had twenty-eight sons and six daughters. He dwelt wisely with his sons, giving them responsibilities in the fortified cities of Judah and giving them the provisions necessary for them to carry out their tasks. His favorite wife was Maachah the granddaughter of Absalom and Rehoboam prepared her son Abijah to follow him as king by appointing him chief among the princes to be their leader.

Discussion questions:

1. When you make a mistake, a bad choice that leads to problems and pain for you, how do you react? Do you try to learn from the mistake or are you stubborn and continue to make choices the same way you made them before?
  - a. Rehoboam followed his mistake in Chapter 10 by obeying God in Chapter 11
  - b. Jesus forgives us when we make mistakes if we repent. We can make good choices after we are forgiven for the bad choices. Peter made a bad choice by denying Jesus, but after he was forgiven, he made good choices and became a great preacher and helped many people learn to love Jesus
2. What bad choices have you made lately? What have you done to make good choices, or what do you think Jesus wants you to do to make good choices?
  - a. Possible bad choices
    - i. Mean to someone
    - ii. Talking in school when supposed to be quiet
    - iii. Not obeying parent when asked to clean room
    - iv. When supposed to do homework, friend wants to play and talks you into playing
  - b. Good choices
    - i. Apologize and practice kindness to others
    - ii. Apologize and be quiet, don't complain if punished
    - iii. Apologize and clean room, next time clean room when asked without complaining
    - iv. Stop playing and do homework, next time do homework first and then play, the playing will be more fun if you don't have to worry about trouble over homework

PBA Questions: (Ask at least 2 or 3, more if you have enough time) (the first 10 can be answered from the above story, more or less)

1. According to 2 Chronicles 11:1, how many warriors did Rehoboam assemble from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin?

ANS: one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men

2. According to 2 Chronicles 11:23, who did Rehoboam disperse throughout all the territories of Judah and Benjamin?

ANS: some of his sons

3. According to 2 Chronicles 11:2, who was Shemaiah?

ANS: man of God

4. According to 2 Chronicles 11:22, who did Rehoboam appoint as chief, to be leader among his brothers?

ANS: Abijah

5. According to 2 Chronicles 11:21, which wife did Rehoboam love more than all his wives and concubines?

ANS: Maachah, granddaughter of Absalom

6. According to 2 Chronicles 11:4, what did they do when told to not attack their brethren, but every man return to his house?

ANS: obeyed the words of the LORD (and turned back from attacking Jeroboam)

7. According to 2 Chronicles 11:5-10, how many cities did Rehoboam build for defense in Judah?

ANS: 15

8. According to 2 Chronicles 11:17, how long did the Levites from Israel make Rehoboam strong, because they walked in the way of David and Solomon?

ANS: 3 years

9. 2 points. According to 2 Chronicles 11:5-10, in which two tribes did Rehoboam build cities for defense in Judah?

ANS: Judah and Benjamin

10. 2 points. According to 2 Chronicles 11:13, who from the tribes of Israel took their stand with Rehoboam?

ANS: the priests and Levites who were in all Israel

11. 6 points. According to 2 Chronicles 11:11-12, what six things did Rehoboam put in the fortified strongholds?

ANS: captains; stores of food, oil, and wine; shields and spears

12. 5 points. According to 2 Chronicles 11:2-3, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, ""Speak to \_\_\_\_ the son of \_\_\_\_, king of \_\_\_\_, and to all Israel in \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_."

ANS: Rehoboam, Solomon, Judah, Judah, Benjamin

13. 4 points. According to 2 Chronicles 11:20, who were the four sons Maachah bore Rehoboam?

ANS: Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith

14. According to 2 Chronicles 11:5, where did Rehoboam dwell?

ANS: Jerusalem

15. 3 points. According to 2 Chronicles 11:18-19, what were the names of the children Mahalath bore Rehoboam?

ANS: Jeush, Shamariah, and Zaham

16. 15 points. According to 2 Chronicles 11:5-10, what were the 15 cities Rehoboam built for defense in Judah?

ANS: Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa, Beth Zur, Sochoh, Adullam, Gath, Mareshah, Ziph, Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah, Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron

17. 4 points. According to 2 Chronicles 11:18, who were the father and mother of Mahalath, wife of Rehoboam? Specify which was father and which was mother.

ANS: father – Jerimoth (son of David), mother – Abihail (daughter of Eliah son of Jesse)

18. 4 points. According to 2 Chronicles 11:5-10, name the four cities Rehoboam built for defense in Judah that start with an 'A'?

ANS: Adullam, Adoraim, Azekah, Aijalon

19. According to 2 Chronicles 11:16, the Levites from all the tribes of Israel, who came to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD God of their fathers, did so because they had set their heart to do what? Be specific.

ANS: set their heart to seek the LORD God of Israel

20. 3 points. According to 2 Chronicles 11:14-15, Jeroboam appointed priests for himself for what three things?

ANS: the high places, for the demons, and the calf idols which he had made

21. According to 2 Chronicles 11:10, what kind of cities did Rehoboam build in Judah and Benjamin?

ANS: fortified cities

22. 2 points. According to 2 Chronicles 11:14, who rejected the Levites from serving as priests to the LORD?

ANS: Jeroboam and his sons

23. According to 2 Chronicles 11:11, who did Rehoboam put in the fortified strongholds he built? Be specific.

ANS: captains