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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1527 ~ Shishak Raids the Temple.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

When Solomon's son Rehoboam was crowned the new king of Israel, the people asked him for some relief from the heavy burden of taxes that Solomon had imposed. Solomon had used these heavy taxes to afford his lavish lifestyle, his large army and extensive harem of wives. Rehoboam refused and boasted that he would make the taxes even heavier. It was at this point that the nation of Israel was split. The northern kingdom known as the 10 tribes of Israel was given to a different king, King Jeroboam. The two remaining tribes of Benjamin and Judah, known as the southern kingdom of Judah, remained under King Rehoboam's control.

The northern king Jeroboam set up two centres of worship to be a substitute for the Temple in Jerusalem. Those priests and Levites living in the northern kingdom did not agree with doing this. They left their homes and moved south so they could still worship the Lord in the Temple in Jerusalem. Although Rehoboam held dreams of reuniting the southern and northern kingdoms again under his control, this never came to pass.

Have you heard the expression "Like father, like son?" This simply means that a son has copied his father's lifestyle. This was true of Solomon's son, Rehoboam. Soon after becoming king, at the age of 41, Rehoboam set up idols on every high hill in the land. The people of Judah and Benjamin were encouraged to do the same kinds of evil that once had been practised in the land before God gave it to the Children of Israel.

So grieved was God over King Rehoboam's rebellion, that He raised up the king of Egypt, Shishak, in the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign to punish him and the people. This event is recorded in the 14th chapter of the book of 1st Kings.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

What caused Rehoboam and the people of Judah to turn away from worshipping God in the Temple? Why did Rehoboam build idols and encouraged Judah to worship them? A complex system of religious worship in the Temple failed to keep the people close to God. Could Rehoboam have followed Solomon's example of tolerance of other religions and then embracing them? We all have to ask ourselves how long we should blame our parents for our own mistakes and faults. There needs to be a time when we admit it's us that have sinned rather than making excuses or blaming others for our behaviour.

Under King Rehoboam, Solomon's great kingdom lost both its size in people and land, and treasures of quality. Once God's judgment was announced, Rehoboam humbled himself and so did the people. But this was not enough to prevent the Temple from being ransacked by the soldiers of Shishak, King of Egypt. The legacy of a beautiful magnificent Temple, passed down by Solomon, lasted only 33 years from its dedication before God allowed all its gold vessels to be stolen away.

Gold shields used in ceremonies were taken too, but Rehoboam replaced them with bronze shields so the ceremonies could continue as they had in the past. Poor quality replacement may be a picture of some people's lives and ministries today – everything looks the same but the value has disappeared. People are going through the routine only to keep up appearances. In Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 23, the Lord Jesus condemned the teachers of the Law, the scribes and the Pharisees, for keeping up appearances but not loving God with their heart.

The speed at which Judah turned to idol worship is a reminder to parents in every generation that they must diligently teach their children about God and the Bible. If one generation fails to do this, their children will quickly grow up pagan and refuse to love and worship God.

We learn that God is just and loving, all knowing and everywhere. But we tend to forget that God can be hurt and also become angry. In the New Testament book of Ephesians, Chapter 4, we are warned not to grieve or upset God's Holy Spirit because "the Spirit is God's mark of ownership on you, a guarantee that the Day will come when God will set you free."

Have you seen your need of a Saviour yet? Consider a footballer. A footballer is prepared to train for many hours a week. When told how hard he is working, he will dismiss it, saying that the grand final is coming up. If the footballer's coach offered him a place in the training squad for six months but also said he'd never play a game with the team, would the footballer continue to do all the hard work for nothing? No. There would be no purpose.

Maturing believers in the Lord Jesus understand that the purpose of their life is devotion to Christ while they live on earth. They accept that suffering, trials and inconvenience will come to them now, but also that they are preparing for the benefits of glorious heaven later. The price of resisting an evil world is the wonderful outcome of being with God forever.

Just as King Rehoboam started his reign as a bad example to his people, we also exert influence on others, either for good or bad. If you know your influence is poor on the people around you, call out to the Lord Jesus to save you and change your heart. Ask Him to take away your love of sinning. Trust Him completely to be the One doing the work of making you into a holy and pure person, fit and ready to do His purpose. Then others will be helped by God's good influence in your life.

A little poem says:

“I’d rather see a sermon than hear one any day.

I’d rather one would walk with me than merely show the way.

The eye’s a better pupil and much sharper than the ear.

Fine counsel can confuse me, but example’s always clear.

The lectures you deliver may be very wise and true,

But I’d rather get my lesson by observing what you do.”

Remember ‘Like father, like son’? When saved, we become God’s dearly loved children.

Are we closely following our Heavenly Father’s example in our lives? Do others see God and His character in all we do and say? Hold fast to God’s good example and know that His work in our lives is making us fit for heaven.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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