

## Rehoboam, King of Judah

## ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Alfred J. Buescher

Scripture—II Chronicles 10-13; I Kings 12



After the death of Solomon, his son, Rehoboam, went to Shechem to be crowned king. All Israel came to the city to see him crowned. Rehoboam, who had fled to Egypt from Solomon's wrath, returned and went with them.

Rehoboam told his people to come back in three days and he would answer them. First he sent for the older men of his father's court and asked them what his answer should be. They told him to be kind and just.

His people came to King Rehoboam complaining that his father had put grievous burdens upon them. If he would ease them of the heavy yoke that Solomon had imposed, they would serve him loyally all his days.

Then Rehoboam sent for the young men who had grown up with him and asked them what he should say. They said to say that he would increase, not lessen, the people's burdens, and he did.

MEMORY VERSE—James 1:5

## The Golden Text



Rehoboam forsakes the counsel of the old men.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."—James 1:5.

### REHOBAM, KING OF JUDAH

How his Kingdom was Divided Because of his Unwise Decision  
Scripture — 2 Chronicles 10-13; 1 Kings 12

By Newman Campbell

Our lesson today is taken from the history of Israel and Judah. Three kings had reigned over a united Israel—Saul, David and Solomon. Under them Israel had experienced her greatest glory, reaching the nation's peak in Solomon's regime.

Underneath this seeming prosperity, however, there was secret rebellion. Extravagance, immorality and idolatry flourished. An unbearable load of taxation was secretly but bitterly resented. This finally resulted in the tragic division of the kingdom which was never again to be re-united, as we shall see.

It is queer, our commentator tells us, that although Solomon had 700 wives, we know of only one son, Rehoboam, son of Naamah, who was an idolatress for whom Solomon built a high place to Moloch in front of the temple. Moloch was one of the gods worshipped by pagan Ammonites.

Solomon eventually died and Rehoboam reigned in his stead. "And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for to Shechem were all Israel come to make him king."

Do you remember Jeroboam, who had been driven into exile by Solomon? He was in Egypt,

where he heard that Solomon had died, and he returned and came with the people to see Rehoboam crowned.

The people now complained to Rehoboam saying: "Thy father made our yoke grievous; now therefore ease thou somewhat the grievous servitude of thy father, and his heavy yoke that he put down upon us, and we will serve thee."

Rehoboam put them off, saying, "Come again unto me after three days," so the people went home.

The king first called a council of the wise, old men who had counselled Solomon, and he asked them, "What counsel giveth me to return answer to this people?"

"And they spake unto him, saying, If thou be kind to this people and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be thy servants for ever."

Being an arrogant man, Rehoboam, however, turned away from such wise counsel of the old men and asked the young men who had been brought up in the luxury and licentiousness of King Solomon's court what they would counsel. They told him not to ease the burdens borne by the common people, but to increase them.

So this foolish man, then in his 42nd year, told the people, in rough language:

"My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

What was the reaction to this stupid and harsh speech? How would any liberty loving peo-

ple react to such tyrannical, arrogant words?

"What portion have we in David? Neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to your tents, O Israel; and now, David, se to thine own house."

So at the ringing cry, "To your tents, O Israel!" all went home. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin stayed with Rehoboam, but the other 10 formed the kingdom of Israel, and chose Jeroboam for their king.

After the division of the kingdom, Rehoboam gathered together a large army from his two tribes to fight against Israel and get it back under his rule. "But the word of the Lord came to Shemaiah, the man of God, saying, speak to Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah, and Benjamin, saying:

"Thus saith the Lord: Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren: return every man to his house: for this thing is done of Me." The Lord's order was obeyed. Then Rehoboam built a number of fortified cities and stocked them with provisions and arms against possible enemies. After that he followed in the steps of his father, Solomon, and took many wives and concubines and had 28 sons and 60 daughters, forsaking the way of the Lord.

Then Shishak of Egypt, who in the Egyptian records is the Pharaoh Sheson I, invaded Judah and seized the fortified cities, and he found Judah so incapable of withstanding invasion, that they yielded to

## Plan Completion For Farmstead Improvement

Plans were laid last week for a 1956 Farmstead Improvement competition in which it is hoped 400 farmers of Ontario County will participate. Agricultural Representative H. L. Fair will convene the meeting in his office.

Sparked by the fact that 1955 will see this county host to the International Plowing Match, and following the successful experience of other counties, the farm beautification contest will be organized.

It is probable that it will be a "double-barreled" affair, providing one category for those farms which have been consistently well-kept and another for the below-par farmsteads. The overall program will include work which can be begun this year: planting, painting, hedge rows and general cleanup of rural properties.

Essex county has a similar contest in progress at the present time. Waterloo county, 1954 host to the Plowing Match, reported great success with the contest at that time.

him . . . the precious treasures of the temple and the king's palace."

That is the story of a man who, given power, used it tyrannically, and ruined not only himself, but destroyed his nation. We wonder if unhappy Rehoboam ever learned that compassion for the poor and oppressed—kind words and understanding of others—are "more to be valued than great riches."

MEMORY VERSE: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."—James 1:5

to agree that a wonderful piece of planning has been done and that it would be most desirable if the proposed neighbourhood would become a reality.

A writer lists five things that cause moom the most trouble during house-cleaning days, and he left dad out.

Failures are divided into two classes — those who thought and never did, and those who did and never thought.

It's easy to lose friends by agreeing with people who say they look bad.

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# New Neighbourhood Near Unionville "Victoria Gardens"

Looked Upon Favourably By Many Residents of Unionville

Developer Mr. Sam Sciberras and his associates held a dinner meeting at Unionville on Wednesday, April 6, 1955, at which the village trustees, the School board, businessmen and interested individuals attended.

Opening the discussion, the planners Dr. Alfred Bernhart and Mr. Eric Embacher outlined briefly, with models and plans on hand, the new ideas adopted in designing the layout of the neighbourhood, as described in our issue of March 31. At the following panel discussion, Mr. Sciberras and Mr. R. Rowland, Manager of the Toronto Dominion Bank, Bathurst-Eglinton Branch, as well as the planners, answered questions.

Mr. Tandy asked about the proposed procedure and timing of construction and Mr. Sciberras outlined that the first thing to construct would be the services, such as watermain, sewers and roads. At the same time some ten model homes would be erected, followed later on by some 60 houses to be completed within one year, and the balance of the 260 houses to follow in orderly stages. Mrs. Toogood and Mr. W. Austin, school trustees, wanted and received assurance that the construction of the school would keep pace with the completion of the houses. In answering Mrs. Mason, Mr. Embacher stated that only single family houses would be erected, in order to emphasize the country-like living conditions. Rigid architectural restrictions should be adopted, beneficial for both the individual house owner and the community as a whole. It was clarified by a question of Mr. Kerswell, village trustee, that the present commer-

cial business and stores could take care of the increased required services and that new stores should not be built at the initial phase of the development. A question of Mr. W. Austin brought the point up, that with water and sewers available and with good roads and railway service, the area would become attractive to new industries.

Mr. M. Smith, village trustee, made it very clear that he does not like the taxes to go up, due to the proposed development. Dr. Bernhart outlined that all services, roads, school, etc., will be provided, for by the developer and that the possibility to connect to the services means a gift of some \$400 to each individual present house owner. In addition, the fire insurance rates would decrease due to the better fire protection, such as hydrants, etc. The future maintenance cost of the services would be more than taken care of by revenue from the water supply system. In addition the tax revenue would increase, using the present tax levy, due to the increased assessment represented by the proposed houses.

The assessment value of the new houses will average at least twice as high as of the present houses. Messrs Tandy, Mason, Stiver and Wilks supported these points and indicated that residents having trouble with water or sewage would be glad to solve their problems by connecting to the service systems. Rev. W. Butt felt that water and sewer services would be very desirable and would improve the health protection. Mr. Gleaman added that the mere fact of water and sewer available adds to the value of each property.

Mr. Rowland gave a picture of Mr. Sciberras' abilities and previous record on developments in North York and Scarborough. He pointed out that regulations of government agencies and Mortgage companies will be met before the developer commences, which will be an additional guaranty for proper completion of the development.

The point was raised by Messrs Stiver and Mason and it was agreed upon, that all discussed facts regarding services, school, architectural restrictions etc. should be incorporated in the subdivision agreement.

The meeting concluded very harmoniously with all parties

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