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A calf of its own making

Chapter 11 of the Second Chronicles

Chapter 11 of 2 Chronicles deals with the political and religious situation of the kingdom of Israel during the reigns of Kings Rehoboam and Jeroboam. Here is a detailed summary of the chapter:

After the partition of the kingdom of Israel, King Rehoboam continued to rule the kingdom of Judah, while King Jeroboam established the kingdom of Israel. During this period, Jerusalem became the capital of the Kingdom of Judah, while Samaria became the capital of the Kingdom of Israel. King Rehoboam began to strengthen his country's defenses and built fortresses and walls in the city. He also gathered a large number of soldiers, including the Jews and Benjaminites, to defend the kingdom of Judah.

Rehoboam had planned to attack Israel by force and unify the country by force. But God sent Shemaiah the man of God to instruct him not to go to war, because God allowed Israel to be divided. Rehoboam obeyed God's Word and thus avoided a civil war. Over the next three years, his kingdom flourished with God's blessings. for he walked in the ways of David and Solomon (2 Chrons 11:17).

In the past, God forbade Rehoboam to fight against Israel because they were still "brothers." What attitude should we have toward the rift between Christians or the split in the church today? The kings change, the rise and fall, the ascendancy is easy to ascend the throne and difficult to defend the country. There is no need to envy others for a while, the one who has the last laugh is the winner. The message in this chapter will warn us of what awaits those who do what is evil in Jehovah's sight.

Solomon's son Rehoboam was strong for three years (v.17) not because he was obedient to God, but because the Levites in the north had moved to Judah, and many of the northern people who had 'set their hearts to seek Jehovah' had gone with them to the temple to offer sacrifices. These men sacrificed and ministered "three years in the way of David and Solomon."

Today, the church will be strengthened when God's followers who "set their hearts to seek the Lord" are filled. And when the church is flooded with followers who only want to seek grace, sooner or later the church will replace God with "a calf of its own making" and become a club or charity (1 Timothy 3:15).

"There is nothing new under the sun" (Eccl. 1:9). For millennia, if an enemy tried to use religion for a political purpose or a social idea, he or she would have left believers with little understanding of the Bible, worshipping 'the calf of their own making' (v.15) and thinking they were loving God and loving others. Each of us has something in our hearts that we want to pursue, and every time we reach a stage, we have to ask ourselves, what exactly is our heart pursuing? We are deceived first because our heart has deceived ourselves, and then everything goes wrong with what our heart is pursuing. In chapter 11, we don't see Rehoboam's interaction with God, who disbanded his army of 180,000, but he didn't pray, he didn't go to the temple to ask God, and everything he did was build military installations. Did he recognize that God is the Most High God? We are sometimes stubborn, and we don't care what God says. We need to pray for our hearts and not to be devoid of God's teachings.

King Rehoboam strengthened the country's defenses, while King Jeroboam adopted a false religious policy that plunged the nation of Israel into religious degeneration. As we learn from Rehoboam, we must always ask what is it that fills our hearts? Do we unconsciously fill most of us with desires? Where do we put God? How big is the territory of God's hearts in us? Be careful, we'll become Rehoboam!

King Jeroboam took a very wrong approach in religious matters. In order to prevent the people from going to Jerusalem to worship God, he made two golden calves, placed them in the temples of Bethel and Dan, and told the people that these golden calves were their gods. He also forbade the people to come to Jerusalem to worship God and began appointing their own priests in place of God's priests. These actions were contrary to God's commands and plunged the nation of Israel into religious depravity.

We prayed together

Dear Lord, we see in this passage that Rehoboam was preserved and blessed by obedience to You, and that Jeroboam was chosen by You but failed because of His disobedience to You. Lord, seeking Your face is our best choice, and listening to Your Word is our safest path. Lord, teach us not to hurt our brothers and sisters in word or deed, to focus on our own renewal, and to give us heavenly wisdom and a spirit of revelation so that we can come to You humbly, not turning our own way.

We know that the mistakes that have been made cannot be undone, but we can make changes to prevent the same mistakes from happening again. The key to Rehoboam's transition from losing the hearts and minds of the people to regaining the hearts and minds of the people was that he stopped putting his energy and energy into things that could no longer be changed, and instead grasped what he could work on. Lord, help us to do the same, to learn to let go of our unchangeable past in the face of challenges and dilemmas, and to strive to do good and submit to Your will in the current environment.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Chapter 11 of the Second Chronicles

11:1 And Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, and gathered together the house of Judah and the house of Benjamin, a hundred and eighty thousand men, all chosen warriors to fight against the Israelites in order to take the kingdom back to themselves.

11:2 But the word of Yahweh came to the man of God, Shimaiah, saying,

11:3 Go and speak unto Loboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to the Israelites of Benjamin, saying,

11:4 Thus saith Yahweh, Ye shall not go up and fight against your brethren, but go every man to his house. for it is with me. And they obeyed the words of Jehovah, and returned, and did not fight against Jeroboam.

11:5 And Lobo dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities in the land of Judah.

11:6 To protect the construction of Bethlehem, Etam, Ticotia,

11:7 boshu , sogo , yaduran ,

11:8 Gath , Marysha , Syphus ,

11:9 Adolai , Raj , Yazega ,

11:10 Zorah, Ajaron, Hebron. These were the fortified cities of Judah and Benjamin.

11:11 Loboam also strengthened the protection of various places, and placed army commanders in them, and prepared food, oil, and wine.

- 11:12 He prepared shields and spears in every city, and made them very strong. Judah and Benjamin were to him.
- 11:13 And all the priests and Levites of Israel came to Loboam from all four directions.
- 11:14 The Levites left their country and their possessions and came to Judah and Jerusalem because Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them from serving Jehovah in the priesthood.
- 11:15 Jeroboam made priests for the high places, for demons, for the calves which he had made.
- 11:16 And all the tribes of Israel who had set their hearts to seek the gods of Yahweh and Israel came with the Levites to Jerusalem to worship the gods of their fathers.
- 11:17 So they established the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong for three years, because they walked in the way of David and Solomon for three years.
- 11:18 Rehoboam married Mahalah, daughter of Jerimoth, the son of David, and Abizi, daughter of Eliab, the son of Jesse.
- 11:19 From her fathered several sons, Jeush, Shemariah, and Sahan.
- 11:20 And he married Maacah, the daughter of Absalom, and from whom he begat Abijah, and Athejah, and Zezah, and Shilomi.
- 11:21 And Loboam took eighteen wives, and sixty concubines, and begat twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters. But he loved Magah, the daughter of Shalon, more than any other wife.
- 11:22 And Rehobo made Abijah, the son of Maacah, his son, the prince of his brethren, because he wanted to make him king in his stead.
- 11:23 Rehoboam was shrewd, and scattered his sons among the fortified cities of Judah and Benjamin, and gave them abundant bread, and sought for them many wives and children.

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King Jeroboam took a very wrong approach in religious matters. In order to prevent the people from going to Jerusalem to worship God, he made two golden calves, placed them in the temples of Bethel and Dan, and told the people that these golden calves were their gods. He also forbade the people to come to Jerusalem to worship God and began appointing their own priests in place of God's priests. These actions were contrary to God's commands and plunged the nation of Israel into religious depravity.

During this period, some Levites and priests continued to guard the temple in Jerusalem and maintain the worship of God. They traveled back and forth between the kingdoms of Judah and Israel to uphold God's commands and doctrines. However, these Levites and priests were not respected in the kingdom of Israel, and many were forced to leave the kingdom of Israel and take refuge in the kingdom of Judah.

The main theme of this chapter is the political and religious situation in the kingdoms of Judah and Israel during the reigns of Kings Rehoboam and Jeroboam. King Rehoboam strengthened the country's defenses, while King Jeroboam adopted a false religious policy that plunged the nation of Israel into religious degeneration. During this period, the Levites and priests still maintained the worship of God in Jerusalem, but were ostracized and oppressed in the kingdom of Israel.

A few important passages from 2 Chronicles 11:

1. "So Rehoboam returned to Jerusalem to make him king among the Jews." (2 Chronicles 11:1)- This verse describes Rehoboam's return to Jerusalem as he continues to reign among the people of Judah.
2. "Then the word of the Lord came to Jeroboam the God of Shemaya, saying, 'Go and speak to Rehoboam king of Judah, the son of Solomon, and all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, saying, 'This is what the Lord says: 'Do not go up against your brothers, the Israelites, but go every man to his house. for it is of mine. When they heard the word of the Lord, they went back and did not do what Jeroboam had said. (2 Chronicles 11:2-4)- This verse describes God sending Jeroboam to persuade Rehoboam and the Israelites not to fight each other but to go home separately. It also shows that God cares about the relationship between the kingdoms of Israel and Judah.
3. "Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem and built cities in the land of Judah." (2 Chronicles 11:5) - This verse describes the circumstances in which Rehoboam began to build cities in the land of Judah in order to consolidate his rule in Judah.
4. "All the Levites the priests left their estates and their inheritances and came to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them and forbade them to serve to the LORD the priest." (2 Chronicles 11:14) - This verse describes the fact that Jeroboam and his sons did not allow the Levites to serve, which caused many Levites to leave the kingdom of Israel and come to Judah and Jerusalem.

5. "The men of Judah imitated the deeds of their fathers and disobeyed the commandments of the Lord." (2 Chronicles 11:17) - This verse describes the situation in the kingdom of Judah, where although Rehoboam was a descendant of David's dynasty, he and his people also disobeyed God's command to imitate the actions of their fathers.