

Setting Your Heart

on the

Kingdom



1 KINGS AND 2 CHRONICLES

Voices... Be Careful Who You Listen To!

(The Principle of Seasoned Eldership)

1 Kings 12:1-16; 2 Chronicles 10:1-16

King Rehoboam paced anxiously as he considered his dilemma. No sooner had he taken the throne than the people demanded, *“Lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke!”* Solomon had been a great king, but he taxed the people heavily and forced them into public service to build his empire. Rehoboam enjoyed seeing his father wield his massive wealth and authority to accomplish what he wanted. Now that Israel’s wealth and power were finally his, he wasn’t going to relinquish it easily. Thus, Rehoboam sought counsel from the seasoned elders who had served his father, believing they would support his desire to maintain strong control. But they didn’t! *“Serve the people and grant their request,”* was their wise counsel, *“then they will be your servants forever.”* **This was Not what Rehoboam wanted to hear.** So he turned to the young men who grew up with him...“Yes-men” who would say anything to gain favor with the new king. ***Foolishly, Rehoboam listened to their harsh counsel, plunging his country into an irrevocable civil war that would divide Israel for thousands of years!***

Voices...they speak into your life and direct your thoughts. They declare either the wisdom of God or the foolishness of men. They can lead you along the paths of righteousness or plunge you into the abyss of sin. They’re your friends, family members, co-workers and church leaders. And many times the voice that speaks the loudest is your own! ***Herein is understanding from God...“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks” (Matt 12:34). When you listen carefully to the voices that speak to you, you can discern the motives of their hearts.*** Don’t believe everyone’s advice (Prov. 14:15). Listen only to the voices whose seasoned counsel flows from the heart of God.

Are you facing a major decision, my friend? Choose carefully whose voice you will listen to. ***Don’t repeat the tragedy of King Rehoboam...he only listened to what he wanted to hear.*** Had he followed the wisdom of seasoned eldership, he would have spared himself and his nation a lifetime of suffering. Beloved, in God’s Kingdom, He provides the voice of wisdom to speak into your life. ***That voice is eldership. Listen carefully to godly counsel...it will guard your soul from destruction*** (Heb. 13:17).

Next: The Kingdom of God in 2 Kings...Seeing the Unseen!

