

- ****Introduction: The Warning of 1 Kings 12****

- Rehoboam inherits the throne after David and Solomon
- The kingdom fractures in a single generation
- The tragedy is spiritual, relational, and generational
- Central question: Will we faithfully pass the hope of Christ to the next generation?

- ****Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 12:1–19****

- ****Point 1: Rehoboam Had Access to Wisdom but Rejected It****

- He inherited every advantage: legacy, power, privilege
- The older counselors offered godly, humble counsel (1 Kings 12:7)
- He chose instead to listen to those who affirmed his pride
- Matthew Henry: Rehoboam chose ego over wisdom, image over stewardship
- Biblical wisdom is skill for living under God's rule, not merely information
- Godly leadership is servanthood, not domination
- Warning for the church: proximity to truth is not the same as being formed by truth

- ****Point 2: Rehoboam's Refusal to Listen Caused Collapse****

- Verse 15 is the pivot point: "So the king did not listen to the people"
- The people's cry in verse 16 reflects broken covenant relationship

- The Hebrew word for "portion" signals detachment and rejected relationship
- Listening in Scripture is a moral act — it requires humility and openness to correction
- The result: trust collapsed, the kingdom divided, and long-term decline began
- Rehoboam's name meant "increasing the people," yet his reign fractured what God had built

- ****Point 3: The Modern Church Faces the Same Danger****
- Solomon built an empire but something was lost between generations
- Programs, buildings, outreach, and production cannot replace genuine discipleship
- Gen Z and Gen Alpha are spiritually hungry but distrustful and skeptical
- They are not rejecting God — they are doubting whether the church believes what it says
- Barna research: young adults are disengaging yet remain open to Jesus and spiritual things
- The danger: mistaking attention for transformation
- The next generation does not need more spectacle — they need substance

- ****Point 4: What the Next Generation Is Actually Looking For****
- Not flawless services, hip sermons, or emotional worship experiences
- They are hungering for spiritual mothers and fathers who:
 - Care and engage personally
 - Love and accept without condoning
 - Listen without condemning
 - Guide instead of demand

- Build genuine relationships rather than manipulating environments

- ****Point 5: The Danger of a Heavy Yoke****

- The "yoke" language in 1 Kings 12:4 — a symbol of burden and oppression
- Warning: if ministry culture becomes heavy with performance and pressure, the next generation will ask for relief
- Jesus offers a different yoke — easy and light — and that contrast matters
- Too many churches have become a burden instead of a wellspring of life

- ****Point 6: Proximity Does Not Guarantee Spiritual Transfer****

- Solomon's wisdom did not automatically become Rehoboam's wisdom
- David's heart for God had grown cold in transmission
- The lie of spiritual inheritance: proximity guarantees transfer
- Rehoboam had heritage without formation, access without submission, privilege without depth
- Warning to parents and leaders: participation in programs is not the same as discipleship
- The next generation is not asking for a fake church — they want a real Jesus from a church that actually believes the Word

- ****Point 7: What the Church Must Do****

- Prioritize discipleship over production

- Recover biblical authority — the next generation needs clearer truth, not softer truth
- Model authentic faith — repentance, confession, humility, and real Christianity
- Listen before leading — ask questions and understand burdens before assuming needs
- Give the next generation real responsibility and meaningful participation now

- ****Life Change Challenge****

- Spend one intentional hour with someone younger — listen to their doubts, pressures, and spiritual questions
- Remove one layer of performance from your spiritual life — pursue sincerity over curation
- Open Scripture together at least once this week — read 1 Kings 12:1–19 with a younger person, discuss Rehoboam's choices, and pray for the next generation by name