

GATEWAY INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES REPORT

“A Passion for Souls”

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Dear Beloved GIMI Team Members,

Gracious early fall greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus! I trust that our wonderful Lord continues to bless you, your family, and your beloved church family in a very special way. It is my prayer that as we approach the early fall harvest season that your eyes are lifted up toward the fields “which are truly white unto harvest” as we are admonished to do in **John 4:35-36**. Please pay attention to these wonderful words of challenge for every follower of Christ. ***“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white unto harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.”*** Folks, it seems that the older I get and the greater the reality of how little time I have left becomes, the greater burden God gives me for the souls

of men, women, boys, and girls! For over 53 years, Jo Anne and I have been busy trying to win people to Christ through our churches, our evangelism efforts, and especially through our mission work in Africa. Surely, there have been times when we have had to draw back some because of health issues and other unexpected challenges, but we have always rekindled the flame and kept going, telling lost people about the only way to go to heaven. That way is none other than through our Lord Jesus Christ. Right now there are scores of religions in the world professing to have the key to the gate in heaven, but they are all phony and false. Anyone who puts his or her faith in any other religion or belief in opposition to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, has been deceived, deluded, or brainwashed. There is only one way to God and heaven, and that is through our Lord Jesus Christ. Pay attention to the words Jesus gave to His disciples in **John 14:6**, ***“Jesus saith unto them, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me.”*** Let me give you a Frye translation that I learned from some Greek studies years ago. Jesus was literally saying, ***“I am the way (the only way), the truth (the only truth), and the life (the only life), and no man comes unto the Father, but by me.”*** Therefore folks, no one can go to heaven through belief in Gautama Buddha. No one can enter heaven through the deceptive religion of Mohammed, even if they have been promised a home going to heaven where they can make love to 70 virgins if they happen to die a martyr down here while killing the infidels (the Jews, Americans, and all non-Muslim people on earth). And, no one can go to heaven even if they believe in the 33 million false gods that Hinduism teaches. No one will ever go to heaven by selective predestination by the Sovereignty of God, as taught by Calvinism, without

repentance and personal faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. **John 3:16** is still in the Bible, which says, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* We do not get saved by God's election without personal repentance and confession of Christ as the Lord and Savior! Every human being that has ever lived on this planet could have been saved, while all others may still be saved, if every individual will turn from his or her sins and ask Christ to come into his or her heart! Baptism does not save, good works do not save, church membership does not save, keeping or quoting the Apostles Creed does not save, giving our tithes and offerings does not save, and helping our friends and neighbors does not save. So therefore, we must conclude that without a saving personal relationship with Christ Jesus, every person will die and spend eternity in the literal fiery place called hell. Once they are there, they will never have another chance, because they will be there forever.

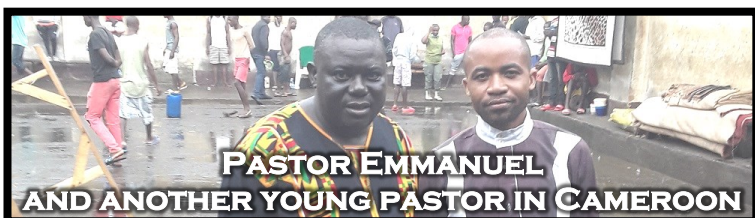
Friends, I don't know about you, but every time I think of the eternal destiny of every person without Christ, I get so burdened and often weep. This is especially true right now in our very own wicked America where there seems to be so very little God-consciousness. America has become a secular humanistic culture that has happened because our churches have become entertainment centers, our colleges have become socialistic brainwashing institutions, and our political leaders have become cowards who are intimidated by Muslim women in Congress. We have a young generation who wants to believe and practice a moral relativism, where there is no absolute truth. In the minds of many, truth is no longer black and white, but it is whatever your feelings want to make it. So, what is right for one person may not be right for another. In other words, the truth of God's Word is shunned, disobeyed, made fun of, and defiantly rejected by rebellious and anti-God people who have now made immorality moral, morality has become immoral, and integrity has become dishonesty in the minds of many. Therefore, this is why we have so many lying politicians in Washington and in our state governments who don't even have a sense of guilt about any wrong they have done.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HEARD SOMEONE ADMIT THEY WERE WRONG?

Not very long ago, Jo Anne and I were talking about the fact that we rarely ever hear anyone say today that they made a mistake or did something wrong. In fact, the wrong is always done by someone else. Of course, we know this practice goes all the way back to the Book of Genesis, when Adam blamed Eve for the mess they were in. And then, believe it or not, Adam blamed God because He was the one that gave Eve to him. Then of course, Eve blamed the devil for tempting her, but she did not accept responsibility for the terrible sin she had committed.

This, of course, is where we are in our culture and society today. No one wants to admit they are wrong or that they have sinned against God. Their pride and willful disobedience to God just causes them to say, "It was somebody else's fault." And yet, if there is no admission of wrong and confession of sin, there will be no repentance. If there is no repentance, there will be no forgiveness or salvation. And may I tell you that I am seeing this happen so many times today in the lives of professing believers?

My wife and I were recently talking about the fact that the greatest hurt we have ever received in the ministry has come from those we have tried to do the most for. And then, the thought has come to me that probably the reason we have done more for some people than others is that these people demand more in order to keep themselves happy. They don't care about others. If they don't immediately get what they want or need for themselves, they just go berserk and start blaming everyone else for the fact that they don't believe their needs are being met. This, of course, is why so many pastors have to work so hard to keep high-maintenance church members happy. Yet, these same people never admit any wrong or accept any responsibility for anything negative in their lives. If they never confess any wrong, then, there will never be any apologies for the way they have hurt others. But yet, these people are the first to demand forgiveness and reciprocation for any wrong they believe has been done to them. Most of the time, these high-maintenance, very demanding people are this way simply because they are very shallow Christians, or in truth, maybe they just have never been saved. Therefore, they are self-centered, egotistical, jealous, bitter, on-edge people who are never satisfied with anything we might do for them.



Then, while I am on my soapbox today, let me tell you that there is a tremendous lie that is being taught by all of our churches throughout America and in the rest of the world as well. This tremendous lie is that we have a God-given responsibility to forgive everyone for the wrong they have done to us, even if they never repent. Now, don't get me wrong! I know that Jesus has taught us to love our enemies and expect to be persecuted for our faith in Him. But friends, where did we ever get the idea that when people hurt us, never admit any wrong, never repent of any sin, and never ask forgiveness, that we are spiritually obligated to forgive others, overlook their sins, and pretend as if the issue never occurred. I think we sometimes do this because of what Jesus said while hanging on the cross in **Luke 23:34**, when He said, **"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...."**. So very often, people believe that when Jesus said this from the cross, that He was forgiving or even saving all of those who crucified Him. But folks, this is not what Jesus was doing! What Jesus was telling God the Father was that those who were crucifying Him were doing it out of ignorance, and so, He was asking the Father to not lay this crime or sin to their charge because of their ignorance.

When people do wrong and hurt us or hurt one another, we have no command from God to forgive them until they repent and ask for forgiveness. I say this because of the story of Peter coming to Jesus to ask how many times we should be willing to forgive those who have wronged us. Peter asked, **"...till seven times?"** Jesus said, **"No, but forgive him seventy times seven."**, or 490 times, which was an indefinite period of time. In other words, never put a limit on our forgiveness if the person who wronged us comes back for more forgiveness. But, if this person who has trespassed against us, doesn't come back to ask forgiveness, then we are not obligated to forgive him or her.

These verses are found in **Matthew 18:15-22**. In this text Jesus is telling his disciples how they are to handle situations where people trespass against them. He told the disciples that the first thing they should do was to go to the one who had wronged them, and confront them for the wrong done. Then, if the brother who committed the trespass would accept the rebuke, then there would obviously be forgiveness and reconciliation. But, if the person refused to accept the rebuke, then the wronged person should take one or two witnesses with him to once more confront the person guilty of the trespass. This time if the guilty person would admit it, and ask for forgiveness and accept reconciliation, then, the matter would be settled. However, if once more the guilty refused or rejected

the rebuke, then, the wronged person should take the matter to the church body and let the church decide what should be done. But, if this was done and there was no repentance or admission of wrong, then, the church should put the brother or sister out of the church fellowship, and they were to have nothing to do with this person from then on until he or she repented.

In fact folks, in **Romans 16:17-18**, we find some inspired words from Paul the Apostle about those who cause hurt and division in the body. Pay attention to these words. ***"Now I beseech you, brethren, (mark) them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and (avoid) them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."***

In these two verses Paul addressed the problem of having deceptive people in the church who would cause trouble, teach false doctrine, and divide the flock. The church was to have no toleration for these people who divided the body of believers and would never repent of their wrong or change their ways. Paul told the church of Rome to put these people out of the church, mark them (literally ignore them), walk on the other side of the street from them, and never be deceived by their articulate speeches and deception, because they were doing great damage to the simple or immature people in the church.

DO WE HAVE TO FORGIVE THOSE WHO DON'T REPENT?

I will answer this question by asking another one. "Does Jesus forgive anyone who doesn't repent?" I don't think I can find this in the Bible. **1 John 1:9** says, ***"If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*** So my friends, in this age when very few people admit their wrong or confess their sin openly, we had better stop trying to look over the vicious sins of others, how they treat us, and also, how they harm the body of Christ. If they don't repent and ask forgiveness, we have no command to forgive them. But, if they keep sinning against us, and keep coming back to ask forgiveness, then, we must forgive them indefinitely. If people sin against us or the body of believers, and these people are never held accountable for their sins, then we have become nothing more than enablers who continue to cause this wicked behavior to go unchecked. And folks, this is why we have so many of the same people causing so much hurt and heartache in more than one church. Why? Because when they harm one body of believers and they are not held to

account for their wrong, then they will just mosey on over to another unprotected church where they will probably do the same thing again. Oh, I know that even if those who have wronged us never repent, surely we will have to ask God for special grace to endure the hurt and pain. But, we don't have to forgive them if they never ask forgiveness. I have heard preachers preach for years and years about forgiving regardless, but folks, this goes against everything the Bible teaches. We have got to stop contributing to the wicked delinquency of evil people who hurt others and cause damage to the body of Christ by not holding them accountable for their vile behavior. I sincerely believe that this is one of the major problems in our churches today.

Our Vice-President, Dr. Tommy Snyder, Is In Zambia Right Now!

By the time most of you receive this newsletter, Dr. Tommy Snyder will be on his way to Zambia for the wonderful outdoor crusade with thousands of expected attendees and for the purpose of teaching over 300 pastors in a Training Conference. Dr. Rick Via, a great preacher from Roanoke, Virginia, and Randy Wills, one of Brother Tommy's deacons at First Baptist Church, Batesville, MS., are traveling with Dr. Snyder. Both of these dear men will be helping with all of the ministry there in Zambia. The crusade and large Pastors' Training Conference is sponsored by the Bethel Mission of churches under the direction of Pastor Stephen Kaindu. I ask you to really pray for the crusade meetings and the pastors' conference. We are praying for a great harvest of souls!

By the way, all of you probably know that Jo Anne and I had planned to travel to Zambia so that I could preach and teach in these great meetings, and then, we were planning to continue to visit five more of our countries during September and October. But, once again, because of my heart problems, poor breathing, and more difficulties with my neuropathy in my feet, we decided, with the recommendation of my doctors, not to try to make this very difficult trip. So, Dr. Snyder and his friends have been very gracious to go in our places. I ask all of you to really pray for a great harvest of souls during the meetings in Zambia.



IN SPITE OF MANY CHALLENGES, OUR GIMI MINISTRY IS GROWING!

I don't think it is necessary for me to share once more about my health issues in detail, because I did this in our last newsletter. But, I do want to tell you that in spite of many challenges, our GIMI work and ministry continues to grow. Several years ago, we were working in 15 African countries and the Ukraine in addition to all that we were doing here in our American churches. But, the day came, because of my sickness, that we had to cut back considerably. We cut back from 15 African countries to about seven on a regular basis. But, by the grace of God and the support of all you GIMI team members, we are now back up to ten African countries and the Ukraine. We are still trying to do a lot of work here in the USA, too.

I am so thrilled to share with you once more that in the past 20 years since GIMI was started, we have now shared the Gospel with just under 11 million people, and from this large number, almost 2.9 million have now made first-time decisions to follow Christ as Savior.

Also, I would like to tell you that just this year, since January first, we have shared the Gospel message with just over 700,000 people in all of our ministry. We have seen just under 100,000 people come to Christ and repent of their sins. We are truly rejoicing in what God is doing, and we must rejoice in this harvest, because we know for sure that there is a great celebration up in heaven. I would ask all of you to rejoice together in the harvest and help us give Christ all of the glory!

OUR RADIO MINISTRY IS REALLY GROWING!

As most of you will remember, in our last newsletter, I talked about how God was opening once more the door for a huge radio ministry here in America and on the continent of Africa as well. **By the time you receive this newsletter, GIMI is probably going to be on at least 60 radio stations—47 stations in America and the remaining 13 in Africa.** And, we are praying that if God will provide the additional funds, we want to enlarge our radio outreach to all of the areas where we have worked on our African fields and in the towns and cities here in America where Jo Anne and I have friends from our almost 54 years of travel. **Would you please help us pray for this new growing radio ministry, and also, please pray about giving to this tremendous outreach opportunity to scores of places where my weak body**

won't allow me to go. When I say this, I can't help but think about what happened to Dr. J. Vernon McGee many years ago when he came down with cancer. When he got sick and could not continue on in pastoral ministry, which included a lot of travel, God gave him that great radio ministry which is still bearing so much fruit long after he has gone on to heaven! I do hope you will continue to help us with this new marvelous arm of outreach. If you will help us with this new endeavor, then you will share in all of the rewards for the harvest we reap!

We Are Resuming Our Bible College Classes!

A lot of you know that a couple years back, GIMI started our Gateway International Bible College which offered classroom work every Thursday evening here in our GIMI Headquarters. We also had more than 40 students enrolled in our Extension Program, most of which were located in Africa. God really blessed our work with some fine teachers helping me with the teaching, but because of so much administration, along with trying to pastor a church, plus all of the health problems I have, the work load just became too much. After much consideration, I decided that we would discontinue the Thursday evening classes to get out from under the stress of so much to do. My wife and I had been trying to oversee the GIMI Ministry for 20 years, plus, I was trying to pastor the church, and then, we were doing the Bible College work also. But recently, after much encouragement from my doctors to get out from under so much stress, and after fervent prayer for over three months by my wife and myself, she and I came to the conclusion that we had to resign the church and concentrate on the African ministry which we have been doing for so long, because there was so much demand in the pastoral role. So, we resigned the church, and now we are back to just overseeing GIMI, doing the new radio ministry, and trying to keep raising funds for this marvelous work.

We are enrolling external students here in America, as well as in Africa. I would also remind you that except for the first application fee, all of our classes are Tuition Free if the student will agree in writing to work faithfully, stick with it, and complete at least two years of the four year degree program. However, if a student starts and drops out before the two years completion, that student will be expected to pay tuition for what classes he or she has already completed in the past.

So, we need you to help us get the word out to prospective students. If you would like to help us

financially in order to provide Free Tuition for these students, please send your gifts to Gateway International Bible College, P.O. Box 667, Taylorsville, NC 28681, and designate the gifts for the Bible College.

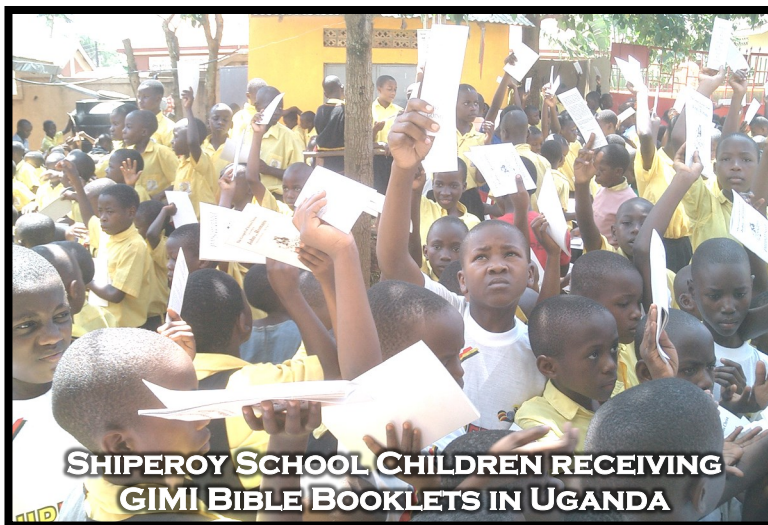
I would also like to ask you to really pray for the school as we resume our classes and try to enroll God's servants who want to prepare to serve Him better. We really need your prayers and support for this new endeavor.



**MAMA JO ANNE SHARING THE GOSPEL
WITH PRISONERS IN UGANDA**



**DR. FRYE DISTRIBUTING JOHN AND ROMANS
TRACTS TO PRISONERS IN UGANDA**



**SHIPEROI SCHOOL CHILDREN RECEIVING
GIMI BIBLE BOOKLETS IN UGANDA**



PASTOR EMMANUEL CHONGWAN WITH FOOD PROVIDED BY GIMI FOR CAMEROON PRISONERS



A CHURCH SERVICE IN ANOTHER CHURCH PLANT IN ZAMBIA



CHILDREN IN A REFUGEE CAMP IN DRC



PASTOR JAMES MWANGI DISTRIBUTING GIMI PROVIDED ITEMS IN A PRISON IN KENYA



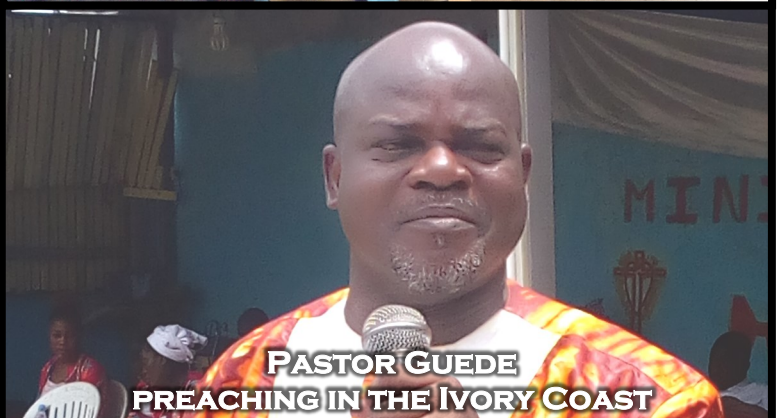
ARTHUR YANWEH BRINGING GIMI PROVIDED HUMANITARIAN ITEMS TO A PRISON IN LIBERIA



A LARGE SOUTH SUDANESE CHURCH SERVICE IN NORTHERN UGANDA



PASTOR DIMA PREACHING IN A PRISON IN THE UKRAINE



PASTOR GUEDE PREACHING IN THE IVORY COAST



LADIES INSIDE OF A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED CHURCH BUILDING IN ZAMBIA



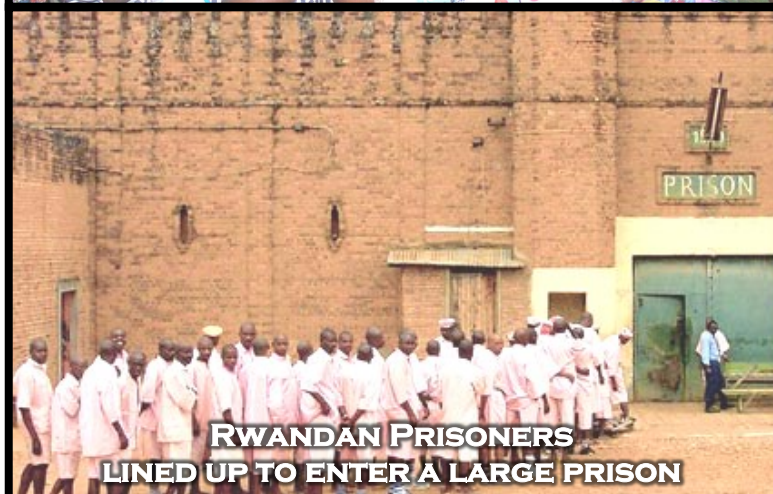
A BEAUTIFUL DRC EASTER CHOIR SINGING ABOUT THE RESURRECTION



KENYA LADY PRISONERS HAPPY WITH COOKIES GIVEN BY GIMI



TENTS IN A SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE CAMP



RWANDAN PRISONERS LINED UP TO ENTER A LARGE PRISON



CHILDREN IN A SUMMER CAMP SPONSORED BY GRACE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN UKRAINE



PASTORS DOMITIEN AND PHILEMON DISTRIBUTING HUMANITARIAN ITEMS IN BURUNDI



PASTOR GUEDE PRAYING AT THE CLOSE OF A WORSHIP SERVICE IN IVORY COAST



**PASTOR GUEDE BAPTIZING A NEW CONVERT
IN THE IVORY COAST**



**PASTOR PHILEMON
PREACHING IN BURUNDI**



**ARTHUR YANWEH MINISTERING TO SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN LIBERIA**



**BIBLES PROVIDED FOR
SOUTH SUDAN CHURCH MEMBERS BY GIMI**



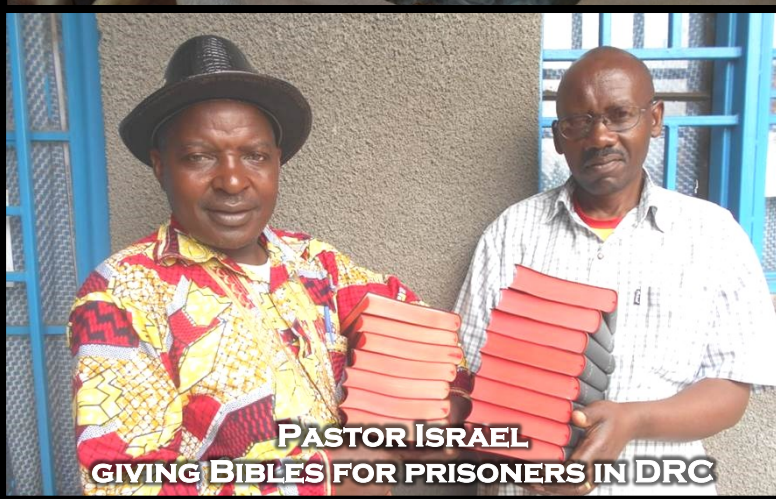
**JONATHAN KALAMA AND PHILIP NDURYA,
TWO OF OUR FAITHFUL PREACHERS IN KENYA**



**PASTOR DIMA
BAPTIZING A YOUNG LADY IN UKRAINE**



**PRISONERS PRAYING
TO RECEIVE CHRIST IN CAMEROON**



**PASTOR ISRAEL
GIVING BIBLES FOR PRISONERS IN DRC**

A HUGE CHALLENGE BEFORE US WITH 54,000 SOUTH SUDANESE IN A UGANDAN REFUGEE CAMP

In our last newsletter, I shared with you the enormous burden that God has placed on my heart for the huge South Sudanese Refugee Camp in northern Uganda, which has over 54,000 people there just struggling to stay alive and to meet the needs of their children every day. You may remember that I told you that 86% of the people in this camp are women and children. A lot of the fathers and older brothers have been killed in the civil war across the border in their home country of South Sudan. This civil war has been going on since 2013. We have heard much talk about peace being restored, but so little has been done to bring this about.

I am happy to tell you that for the past four months, due to the sacrificial giving of several people, we have begun our evangelism and humanitarian ministry in this large camp. Our Ugandan Pastor, Patrick Ogaba, and our South Sudanese Pastor, Mogga Leju, have been working diligently in the camp. My how God is working in this new project! During the past four months of this project, we have distributed a huge amount of soap, ladies' hygiene products, some food, some medicine, and a lot of Bibles. Also, during this time, our pastors in the camp have shared the Gospel message with 8,014 people, with 2,797 of this large number getting saved and coming to Christ. Folks, would you say that this new effort is fruitful and productive? I certainly would, and this would never have been possible without so many of you helping us in this new field of opportunity. Truly, truly, "the fish are really biting"! I am glad we don't believe in removing the fishermen from the waters where the fish are biting and then sending them to the unreached people groups where two people each year get saved compared to where they used to catch 2,000 new fish every year. I sincerely don't know how these people are going to be able to explain this to Jesus when we all stand before the Bema Seat of Christ. But, we are shouting "Hallelujah" because we are still fishing where the fish are biting! It is my prayer that we might just launch out into even deeper waters where we might catch enough to almost break the nets! Please help us keep fishing!

We are including several photos in this newsletter from the camps. I hope you will look at the photos and pray for these dear people. Hopefully, God might lead

you to help with some extra gifts to this work. Some of you have already helped us, and for this, we are so very grateful. In fact, some of you have given very sacrificially toward this endeavor, and it is our prayer that God might reward you richly because of your investment in these suffering people who so desperately need Jesus. We are hoping to work in the camp at least through the end of this year and possibly into 2020 as well. I see no greater opportunity anywhere to win so many people to Christ more than through this special project! I hope you can help us!

Another Christmas Cow Project Before Us!

It is very hard to believe, but by the time you get this newsletter, we will be just a little over two months from Christmas. This Christmas, Jo Anne and I want so much to purchase cows for the Ugandan prisons once again, so that they can enjoy meat for their Christmas dinner. Bear in mind, these prisoners rarely every get a meal with meat, except for this one day each year when GIMI raises the funds and purchases the cows. Last year we had hoped to buy far more than we had been buying, but the price of the cows went up from \$250 each to \$350 per cow. We were able to buy about 30 cows, which the prisoners killed on Christmas morning and then served the meat at the end of Christmas day. We must remember that they don't have refrigeration to kill the cows in advance. So, we were able to provide a lot of stew beef, rice, greens, rolls, orange juice, and some cookies for dessert. All of the prisoners and prison officers were ecstatic about celebrating the birthday of our Savior on this special day. I would remind you that Jo Anne and I have raised these funds for cows at Christmas for far longer than we have been in charge of this ministry. We actually began this Christmas project about 30 years ago. Also, please don't forget that we always preach the Gospel in every prison where we provide the cows and other Christmas gifts. Many hundreds of people have been saved down through the years as a result of our Christmas parties.

So folks, I want to ask all of you to please help us raise the funds for the cows and all of the other Christmas gifts we purchase. These include other types of food, clothing, blankets, juice, soap, toilet tissue, hygiene products for ladies, and many other items. Please remember the price of the cows has gone up to \$350 each. We will just buy as many as we can based upon the amount we are able to raise. Why don't you and your family make this a very special Christmas project this year. I sincerely believe that

God will save people through the evangelism services which accompany every meal we provide. I would love to see the biggest Christmas harvest this year that we have ever had. If you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you in advance for whatever God may lead you as individuals, pastors, churches, and any other dear friends to do toward this annual project. We really cherish your partnership in this effort!

Brand New Commentary On First Corinthians Still Available!

A lot of you precious GIMI Team Members know that one of my delights in life is writing. Truthfully, with my voice problems and my health deteriorating, I seem to see more and more writing projects coming my way from the Lord. I love to write, and I especially love interpreting the Scriptures and trying to make God's Word very practical in all of our lives. Up to this point in my life, I have now written over 60 books and booklets. The most recent one before this last one on First Corinthians is, **"What In The World Has Happened To The Southern Baptist Convention?"** If you would like to have a copy of this book, then just contact our offices. The price of this book is \$20.00 But now, I just wanted to tell you that my brand new commentary on the Book of First Corinthians is ready for distribution. The title of this new book is, **"Divine Wisdom For A Worldly Church"**. In this book, I have not only tried to carefully interpret the verses of First Corinthians, but I have given a huge amount of time to the explanation of the problems in Corinth, the gifts of the Spirit to the church, a long discussion of speaking in tongues, and the counterfeit which is going on today in our churches. And I really wrote a lot about the upcoming resurrection for the bodies of the saints when Jesus comes again to rapture the church and to take us out of this horrible old world in which we live. If you would like to have a copy of this new commentary, the cost is also \$20.00. Just contact our GIMI Office at 828-632-2344. We will be glad to see that you get either of these two books. We can also provide a list of all of my available books and booklets. By the way, all of the money from the sale of these books goes straight back into our African ministry. So, when you give to purchase a book, the money will help our GIMI Ministry to win souls for Jesus!



COME GO WITH US TO AFRICA!

I want to close this article this time by personally inviting many of you really dedicated believers to prayerfully consider making a short-term mission trip next year (2020) to one of our mission fields in Africa. Presently, we are working on plans for a evangelism and teaching team to go to Uganda, and possibly Kenya, in the spring. We are also working on a projected evangelism and medical team for next fall. We need preachers, teachers, singers, and personal evangelists for the spring trip, and we need doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and a lot of tremendous soul winning counselors for the fall trip. These trips will not be tourist or adventure trips, but they will be for the purpose of sharing the Gospel message to as many people as possible. We do need pastors and teachers to help us further train our GIMI national workers. The cost of one of these trips will be around \$3,100 each, give or take just a little. If you pastors or lay people are interested in finding out more about these mission trips, please contact me personally at gimi@charter.net or contact us at our office at 828-632-2344 or office@gatewayinternationalmissions.com.

We would love for many of you to really consider making this mission trip of a lifetime, and who knows, maybe this one trip will whet your appetite to continue your involvement in world missions personally. Africa begs for the Gospel message, and we who are truly saved should have an overwhelming desire to tell the world about what Jesus has done for us!

Thank you again so much for being on our GIMI Team. Jo Anne and I sincerely love and appreciate you, and we know that this great ministry could not continue to go on were it not for dear people like you generously giving to this world mission program. Thank you for caring, and for sharing in order to share the Good News of the Gospel with a lost world!

In the King's service,
Dr. Stan Frye
President of GIMI





"The Tragic Consequences Of Refusing The Wisdom Of The Older Generation"

"Effective Expositions For Life"

An Expository Sermon

Scripture: I Kings 12:1-19

By: Dr. Stan A. Frye

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Introduction

Now, I want to share with you a sermon I preached at our church several weeks back. This sermon came to me because of a tremendous burden that I am carrying for the older generation of senior citizens and the way they are being treated today, especially here in America. It is truly hard for me to quite understand the disdain and lack of respect that many older people are receiving today in this age of the Generation X and Millennials. I can't ever remember seeing such a disrespectful treatment of seniors in this country as I see right now. But I do remember a very vivid example in the Scriptures where this happened, and it destroyed the nation of Israel. Let's take a look at our Scripture for this study and hopefully glean some scary information about what happened to Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, and the disastrous consequences for God's chosen people when they rejected the advice of the older people and did it the way of the younger generation.

Before I dig deeply into our text, I do want to say that probably every generation of young people since the beginning of time has felt that they were much smarter than their parents as they were going through puberty and trying to get their independence from their elders. Why, I can even remember sometimes when I thought my mother and father didn't have a clue what they were talking about, but it didn't take very long for me to discern that they were far more intelligent than I ever gave them credit for. I remember the story of Mark Twain. The story goes that when Mark Twain (real name was Samuel Clemmons) was 14 years old, he just couldn't get over how ignorant his father was. He even stated that he didn't even want his father around him. Then seven years later when he turned 21, he stated, "It is just amazing how much his father had learned in just seven years." You see folks, almost every child trying to grow up and mature disagrees with the older generation. But there is absolutely no call for the terrible disdain and reproach that is being brought upon the older generation today here in America. Now, let's take a deep look at the story in our Scripture passage from **I Kings 12:1-19**.

Solomon, the great wise king of Israel, had just completed his forty-year reign over Jerusalem and the nation of Israel. Solomon then died, and it was time to choose his successor. The people decided to choose Rehoboam, Solomon's young son. Rehoboam was a young man who was not much more than an older teenager at that particular time. Some people believe he was just seventeen, but no one can be sure. But, the people of Israel went up to Shechem, the prominent capital in the North of the country.

Long about this time, there was a man seeking refugee down in Egypt, whose name was Jeroboam. He was the son of Nebat. For sometime he had been down in Egyptian exile hiding from Solomon who didn't like Jeroboam at all. So, when Jeroboam heard that Rehoboam had been selected as the king due to the death of Solomon, Jeroboam's friends and family sent for him and told him to come home. So, Jeroboam returned to Israel and began to lead a group of young rebellious people standing up against Rehoboam. This group of young rebellious men wanted to push Rehoboam to increase the taxes on the people of Israel so that they would have more money to spend on their frivolous ideas and ways. So, before making a decision about the increase in taxes, Rehoboam decided to question the older generation who had been paying high taxes under Solomon and see what they thought about increasing the taxes even more. Well, the older generation told Rehoboam to please not increase the taxes because the people were already under great stress as a result of the taxes they were already paying.

Rehoboam rejected the wisdom of the older generation, and went with the poor advice of the younger people. The consequences of this terrible decision was that Israel divided into two nations—ten tribes in the North, who became known as Ephraim, and two tribes in the South, the tribes of Benjamin and Judah, which became known as the Southern Kingdom or Judah. The Northern tribes had their capital in Shechem, and the Southern Kingdom had its capital in Jerusalem. Now, because of Rehoboam's rejection of the older people's counsel, the nation split and was never the same again. This decision to believe the counsel of the younger generation over the wisdom of the older generation brought not only the division of the nation of Israel, but it ultimately brought the beginning of idol worship and eventually the devastating disaster of the destruction of the North in 722 B.C. under the attack of the Assyrians. Eventually the destruction of the South came with the final attack by the Babylonians against Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

So, my dear friends, "We better be careful when we throw the counsel of an older generation out the window after years of success by their standards and principles and accept the selfish desires of a younger generation just because of their lust for more money and power." Rehoboam listened to the younger more foolish people in rejection of the tried and proven wisdom of the older people. This decision was cataclysmic to the entire nation. And, if we are not very careful, right now our American nation is following the declining steps of this younger generation while walking away from the proven principles of God's Word and the common sense standards of Christian and moral behavior. We are rapidly losing our spiritual foundations of this great nation because we have replaced the counsel of the older generation for the desires and counsel of self-centered celebrity and idol worshiping young people. May God help us to stop this rapid decline into the bottomless abyss of the self-destruction of our nation. Will any one wake up and listen before our great America is gone? I surely do hope so, because if we don't, we will end up on the scrap heaps of former great countries like Israel did. Now, let's take a closer look at our text.

I. NOTICE THE PROBLEM THE KING FACED. vs. 1-5

A. It was a problem because of the position he occupied. v. 1

When Rehoboam came to power, he was in a really bad position. This was true because of the tremendously successful reign of Solomon. Solomon was one of the wisest men that ever lived, but yet, he did some foolish things. In fact, when he wrote the book of Ecclesiastes, he described clearly how foolish he had been because he had sought success in accumulation of wealth, in expansion of his territory, in sexual indulgence with women, in huge agricultural expansion, in magnificent architectural escapades, and in many other areas. Yet, his conclusion was that apart from the right relationship with God, everything else was vanity or merely chasing the wind. Thus, when he died, his son was going to have a huge responsibility just in trying to continue the empire that his father had built. It was going to require years of hard work and for sure a large amount of money. But, the position he held as king was worthless unless he was willing to have a teachable spirit and learn from those older people who had helped Solomon achieve his worldly success. But, as we have already seen, Rehoboam listened to the wrong generation and ultimately divided and destroyed the country.

B. It was a problem because of the politicians who opposed him. v. 2

From the word “Go” in his new administration, Rehoboam had strong politicians facing him, and these were people with ulterior motives. These in fact were people who had probably withstood Solomon to the point that their opposition had put the life of Jeroboam in jeopardy which resulted in him having to flee to Egypt. So, the first thing that happened when Rehoboam was selected as king was for this younger group of dissidents to come to him and demand that he make their lives easier. Of course, if you are going to have more comforts and accommodations, there has to be more tax money collected to pay for it. This is what we are seeing in America as one political party, the Democrats, are demanding free Medicare for every age, free college tuition for everyone, and of course free healthcare for every person. But you see folks, you don't hear anyone of these Democratic resisters telling how we will get the money to pay for all of this free stuff. So, what we are seeing right now is exactly what Rehoboam was facing from the first day he took office.

C. It was a problem because of the people who had been oppressed. vs. 3-5

In verses 3-5, we find a true explanation of how the younger generation approached Rehoboam and tried to negotiate a better deal for the people. But, the amazing thing to me is that the younger people came to challenge the new king to be less severe with them, while at the same time demanding that he even increase the taxes more than Solomon had done when he was living. Truthfully, this deal they tried to make with the king was just utterly ridiculous, and yet, the king wasn't smart enough to see the ramifications of what they were asking him to do. They wanted a lighter yoke upon them, but they wanted more taxes, obviously in order to have more fun and games. I personally believe that they had lived under difficult times for so long, that now they just wanted some extra funds to conduct some parties and times of celebration. In fact, these younger people requested the king to go easier on them while at the same time encouraging the king to get tougher than ever before. With this stupidity, I can't help believe that because Rehoboam was probably an older teenager when he was inaugurated. These younger rebels just thought that the king would treat the younger people better, and that he would tax the older people, but lighten the load of the younger generation. Once again, we see the selfish motivations rise to the top with this attempt at negotiation. By the way, in return for the king's capitulation to their request, they made a promise to serve the king faithfully in return. In other words, they were trying to bribe this new childish immature king.



**The Younger Generation
Trying To Win The King's Favor!**

Well, after these young people tried to bribe the new king, he told them that he would need three days to think things over before he would make the final decision. He told this young mob to return in three days and he would then give them his answer.

This attempt at mob violence and pressure back in the days of Rehoboam is just as prevalent today if we would just stop and think about all the things that have happened in Washington, D.C. over the past several weeks with the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh. At the time of this writing, we have just completed this interrogation and the gestapo antics produced by the Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee as they ripped into Brett Kavanaugh and his dear family. These people were ruthless because they didn't want to lose their power on the U.S. Supreme Court where they have had

activist judges for a long time. Now as I write this commentary, I just can't help but think about all of the mob violence that is going on all over our nation due to the mad and angry Democrats who hate President Donald Trump. What happened back in about 955 B.C. when Rehoboam took control of Solomon's throne is still going on today almost 3,000 years later. Satan's weapons are always the same regardless of what time in history event are happening. We must watch out for this mob violence mentality which is floating around everywhere today at the behest of filthy wicked billionaires like George Soros who hate God and any conservative traditional people. As in the case here in the story of Rehoboam, this kind of behavior always ends in disaster. We must remember that oppressed people fight back in violent ways most of the time.

II. NOTICE THE PATHWAY THE KING FOLLOWED. vs. 6-11

A. First, the king consulted the older generation. vs. 6-8a

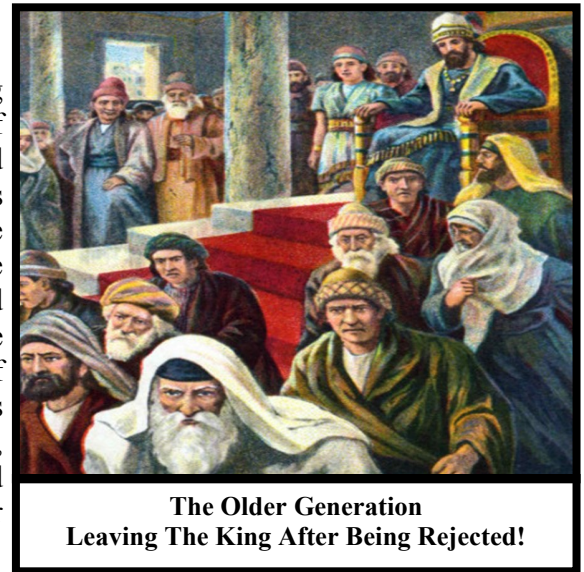
After the younger people came to the new king and confronted him about making life easier for the people, but yet raising the taxes probably on the older people, the king decided to go to the older people and ask their counsel about increasing the taxes. You can imagine what their response would have been after suffering through many years of heavy taxation under the rule of Solomon.

1. Notice the question the king asked the older generation. v. 6

In verse six, we find Rehoboam going to the older people and asking them for advice about whether to raise the taxes or not. I personally believe that Rehoboam knew what he should have done, but he was intimidated by the younger generation who had promised to be his servants if he would do what they asked. So, loudness and probable threats won out in the discussion of what the king should do. Then too, maybe he was just trying to placate the older people by asking for their advice, while he had probably already made up his mind to accommodate his young friends. It is truly obvious to me that Rehoboam just didn't get the clear picture of what was about to happen. He was just more in tune with noise and threats. The older generation's ideas of an easier life was one thing, while the younger generation's ideas about an easier life was more taxes from the older people so that the younger people could spend it having more fun with themselves.

2. Notice the answer the king received from the older generation. v. 7

Let me tell you what the older generation told Rehoboam by just giving you the entire content of verse seven. "And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants forever." (I Kings 12:7) The older people that went before the king to give their advice concerning increasing the taxes on the people came away from the king's throne very discouraged because the king rejected their advice and decided to go with the advice of the young "cool" generation of people. The senior citizen leaders told king Rehoboam that if he would lighten the load of the people, then they would repay his kindness by being his faithful servants forever. All that they were asking was for a respectful servant spirit to them, and they would reciprocate his kindness by following him faithfully. Yet, sad to say, he rejected their wise advice and went the way of the defiant younger generation like so many people are doing today.



3. Notice the action the king took. v. 8a

Let me quote the entire verse eight to give you the explicit words of the Bible about king Rehoboam's response to the counsel of the older the people. **"But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, which stood before him:"** It is so obvious why the king rejected the wise counsel of the older people. The reason was that the young people standing before him were his buddies, and this good-old-boy buddy system always wins out over adhering to the wisdom of those who have learned by experience.

B. Secondly, the king consulted the younger generation. v. 8b-11

It is relevant for us to notice that Rehoboam didn't consult younger people he didn't know who might provide advice from without, but he chose only those good friends of his who would only tell him what he already wanted to hear. So, the

questioning of the older generation was just a farce. I believe he had no intention of paying any attention to anything the older folks told him, just because he had his buddies whom he was trying to appease and impress. May I say that this is why so many younger people make so many tragic mistakes and end up in trouble because they defiantly have rejected the wise experience of older people? Yes, the younger generation may bring a new excitement and passion to the table, but this excitement without wisdom and common sense often brings impulsive disaster.

A lot of you readers may know that I have spent the past 40 years of my ministry working in some of the worst prisons on earth, both here in America and especially in Africa. These prisons have been filled with young people, many of which were only teenagers. The question is, "How did these young people get in prison?" Well, the answer is that they listened to some of their so-called friends who influenced them to do crazy things with much excitement and passion. They obeyed the wishes of their friends, and they ended up being in prison; most of which have been given a long sentence or even life behind bars. King Rehoboam was trying very hard to placate his friends with his new youthful leadership, and in so doing, he brought about the destruction of the kingdom of Israel and ultimately caused the destruction and captivity of Jerusalem and its people.

1. Notice the question the king asked the younger people. v. 9

Well, since the king had already listened to the advice of the older generation and rejected it, he now asked the younger generation standing in the crowd, "Should I make the yoke of hardship worse on the older people, or should I give them some relief?" The young people cried out, "Make the yoke harder and raise the taxes." I personally believe, as I mentioned earlier, that this action was an action of revenge toward the older people. It was for the purpose of trying to raise more funds for the government so that they could be given free stuff. Maybe it was like some of our progressive liberals today who are screaming, "Free health care, free college tuition, free food stamps, free everything." In other words, maybe there was the purpose of a type of socialism behind the screaming desires of the young people. Sounds very familiar, doesn't it? Yet, as history has shown us, this idea never works, and it never will. This younger generation of "cool dudes" brought about the destruction of Israel, and it will do so again over and over in every generation.

2. Notice the answer the king received from the younger people. vs. 10-11

Verses 10 and 11 are two of the most absurd verses in the entire Bible. They are the verses that reveal to us the wicked loud-mouth desires of some very vengeful and bitter youth trying to get back at their elders in the country. They screamed out, "Make the taxes heavier, and let's punish these old fogies that have given us so much trouble down through the years. It is now our time to make their lives miserable like they have made ours." So, they had the attitude, let's punish the old folks and get us some extra money for a huge amount of freebies.

So, King Rehoboam responded to the younger generation by promising that he would make the older people suffer worse than ever before. He would use a heavy hand of rules and regulations, and of course, of taxes and tariffs. Pardon the expression, but King Rehoboam was hell-bent on punishing the older generation just to satisfy the vengeful desires of the mob crowd. Sounds like America at the present time as I am writing. Rehoboam was resolute in raising the taxes and punishing the people if they didn't pay them. Therefore, his stupid decision was about to bring the destruction of the great nation of Israel.

Before moving on to the next verses, I would like to say that right now in America with the anti-Trump hatred syndrome, we are just about to see an uprising of anarchy and vengeful hatred toward all people of conservative standards and beliefs, if this nation doesn't return to God in brokenness and repentance. And, it burdens me to say that the biggest supporters of this coming destruction of our nation are a huge amount of liberal college professors and administrators who have thrown civility to the wind for the purpose of promoting the liberal cause of total destruction of our conservative principles and standards and for the purpose of continuing to kill babies and promote female superiority in our land. These same loud screaming infidels are the people that have come to hate the Bible and the absolute truth it teaches. Even more discouraging, there has risen a plethora of liberal, Scriptural twisting preachers and teachers who have joined in with this "Island of Me" Movement, not the "Me Too" Movement, which we have heard so much about. These young people in the days of Rehoboam caused such a massive turmoil for their country because of their self-centered concern for one person, themselves. They only thought about themselves, and they didn't want any one telling them they couldn't have what they wanted. Well, the king gave them what they wanted, but they got so much more than they bargained for. They got the destruction and division of their nation, and they ultimately got the judgment of God and the carrying away of that nation into two horrible captivities. The first ten tribes were taken captive and carried away into Assyria in 722 B.C. The two Southern tribes of Benjamin and Judah, including Jerusalem, were taken away by the Babylonians in 586 B.C., where they stayed for seventy years. Why? Because the younger generation got what they wanted.

III. NOTICE THE PRONOUNCEMENT THE KING FLAUNTED. vs. 12-14

Do you know what the word "flaunted" means? It means to parade, make a show, or show off something, to defy or cram in the face of someone some message you might want to declare. This is exactly what King Rehoboam did to the older people in Jerusalem. Let me quote these next two verses again, just so God can show you what a fool Rehoboam made of himself. **I Kings 12:12-14, *So Jereboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day. And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him: And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.***"

A. Notice the attitude in the pronouncement. vs. 12-13a

Well, the king called for another meeting on the third day as he had promised Israel, and he was truly ready to wax eloquent in pronouncement and dastardly anger. The people came together before the king, and he declared roughly that he was forsaking the counsel of the older people and going with the recommendation of the younger generation. Rehoboam was literally making a fool out of himself as he was shoveling out his bitterness and hatred. He had listened to his "hip cool dudes", and he was going to win their affections by treating the older generation with disdain and disrespect. Oh, he accomplished what he intended, but as the older generation marched out in humiliation, God was preparing judgment to fall on Israel. Rehoboam could have had a united nation, but because of the screams of these wicked young people, he ended up with two tribes instead of twelve tribes. Even these two tribes would eventually be lost, just because he was a smart aleck and wouldn't listen to the mature people.

B. Notice the anger in the pronouncement. v. 13b

Again in this same verse 13, we need to take a look at the word roughly. In the Hebrew, this word means severe, harsh, or strong. It would seem that Rehoboam was so angry when he made this pronouncement, that his anger just overflowed and became unusually harsh and severe. He basically had it in for these old people that his friends had helped him to hate. He just wanted to make a solemn statement that they were not going to get anything they wanted. But, what a rough fool he made out of himself.

Now, I want to interject what I believe is a true illustration of what happened to Rehoboam as it is happening all over our American country, especially in our churches. I will confess up front that I am an old man of 71 years, and I have been serving Christ in the ministry almost for 54 years. Am I an expert in ministry? No, not by a long shot! But, I have been blessed to pastor some wonderful churches, preach thousands of evangelism services around the world, and I have been blessed to do over 34 years of missionary work in foreign lands. So, I do believe that I am well qualified to make some observations about churches and ministries in general during these days of the new generation churches and leaders.

C. Notice the action of the pronouncement. v. 14

Verse 14 of this text is just another affirming state or proclamation from King Rehoboam that he is definitely going to rule his new kingdom with the counsel of his young arrogant egotistical friends. Of course without a doubt, the king was so resolute on making these evil younger people happy that to borrow an expression from the world, he sold his soul to the devil. And for sure, because he did this, he would eventually destroy the entire Jewish nation for many years to come.

Can we please learn from this mistake of Rehoboam? Sometimes when we compromise truth for comfort and convenience, we sell ourselves and our churches and communities to the devil. In our quest to never offend anyone, and with our determination to always be politically correct, the long-term damage we do is so very often catastrophic. We surely see that this tragic mistake was made by Rehoboam, and we see it being made everyday in our contemporary churches and communities.

IV. NOTICE THE PRODUCTS OF THE KING'S FOLLY. vs. 15-19

A. The first product of the king's folly was disrespect for the wisdom of the people. v. 15

In verse 15, we see distinctly that Rehoboam hearkened not to the voice of the older people, but instead he listened to the younger generation. Of course, through the sovereignty of God, God the Father already knew the decision that Rehoboam would make, and thus, God was using this terrible event to bring to pass the fulfillment of the prophecy of the prophet named Ahijah who had told Jeroboam years before that he would one day rule the ten Northern tribes of Israel. The rest of this story is found in I King's, Chapter Eleven. Obviously, all of this prophecy was being fulfilled because of Solomon's jealousy and threat to kill Jeroboam years before. Solomon's hatred for Jeroboam and his endeavor to try to kill him is the reason that Jeroboam had fled to Egypt just a few years before. So, when Solomon died, and the throne of Israel was given to

Rehoboam, some of Jeroboam's friends brought Jeroboam home from Egypt, hoping to get him involved in the leadership of the new government, or possibly over throw the new kingdom of Rehoboam.

After Jeroboam returned to Israel, he went before King Rehoboam and pleaded for him to make their yoke lighter, but as we have already seen, Rehoboam obeyed the voice of the younger people and ended up splitting the kingdom. Jeroboam took the northern ten tribes, and Rehoboam ended up with just the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin in the south.

We must pay attention to this story and learn from it. Rejection of the wisdom of the older generation always ends up in complete disaster, and I believe one main reason is God requires respect for those who are in the older generation if the kingdom is to survive. This is true, even if the older generation might make some mistakes along the way. Why? Because God has made all of us to respect those in the older generation, because to not do so is to bring reproach on God Who made the order of respect in the world.

Please pay attention to **Leviticus 19:32**, *Thou shall rise up be the hoary head (gray haired one), and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord.* Then, please notice one more verse in **Proverbs 16:31**, *"The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be in found in the way of righteousness."* So folks, to disrespect a Godly righteous person who is old and gray haired is to disrespect the commands of God. Rehoboam obviously forgot these rules, and he suffered cataclysmic consequences.

B. The second product of the king's folly was division of the king's alliance. vs. 16-17.

Please remember that there were 10 tribes in northern Israel, and two tribes in the south. Under Solomon, these tribes were usually allied together, with the exception of a few occasions. But, when Rehoboam rejected the advice of the older men, the beautiful twelve tribes of Israel were completely divided. And, never in history did all of these tribes get together again. Oh yes, there are some cults like Mormonism who claim that they are the restored ten northern tribes, but this is not true. Therefore, it is extremely important for us to remember that sometimes when we are making the wrong decisions to accommodate our kids and friends, we might be making the ones that will ultimately destroy our families and friends if we make the wrong choices. Rehoboam thought he would earn some more friends with this wrong decision, but he destroyed the entire kingdom. Impulsive decisions without the proper counsel from other older experienced people, usually ends up in disaster.

C. The third product of the king's folly was the death of the king's accountant. v. 18

Folks, I would like to begin this point by simply saying that often times when we make impulsive decisions for the wrong reason, we usually end up hurting some very good people who don't deserve the hurt, or in this case, death because of the wrong decision made by the king.

Obviously, King Rehoboam took his throne over the Southern Kingdom. He got in his chariot with his accountant, Adoram, and they went forth to collect the newly imposed taxes. Somewhere out in the field outside of Jerusalem in the Southern Kingdom, Rehoboam had Adoram get out of the chariot to go to some houses to collect the taxes. The people came out in a state of vigilante justice. They stoned Adoram almost to death, and then when Rehoboam quickly got him back into the chariot, Adoram died on the way back to Jerusalem. The stupid decision of the king to reject the counsel of the older people and carry out the decision of the younger generation had now resulted in one of his good friends being killed.

Let me stop again for just a moment and insert some other thoughts right here. So very often when we make impulsive decisions listening to the wrong people. We end up hurting the people we love the most. For instance, many years ago when I was ministering in Florida State Prison, I ran into a young seventeen year old handsome young man on death row. His name was Mark, and he told me a tragic decision. He told me that he originally was from a northern state, and when he was young, his family used to go to church every Sunday. Then one day, the pastor said something in one of his sermons that Mark's dad didn't like. On the way home from church, Mark's dad told the family they were not going back to church. So, they quit church completely and didn't return any more.

After this happened when Mark became a little older teenager, because he was out of church completely, he began to hang out with the wrong people. He made a choice to start running with these worldly young men, and so eventually, they all decided to run away from home, all the way down to Florida. Down in Florida, they continued using drugs and thus, they needed more and more money to purchase the drugs. So, in the process of getting money, they robbed a minute market. During the robbery, one of the merchants was shot and killed. Now, here was Mark on death row in a six by nine feet cell waiting to be executed in the electric chair. And folks, this entire episode started when Mark's dad got mad at the preacher and made the decision to not take his family back to church again. So, there was another Adoram who, figuratively speaking, had been stoned to death because of the father's decision.

I am sorry to tell you that this probably happens almost every Sunday in some church in the world where some parent makes the wrong choice because of the influence of the wrong people. This impulsive decision ends up killing someone spiritually, emotionally, and even physically because of the wrong choice someone makes. Now, Rehoboam's friend and

colleague was dead because of his wrong decision to reject the counsel of the older generation.

D. The fourth product of the king's folly was defiance of the king's authority. v. 19

We now arrive at the last verse in this study. Verse 19 tells us that after Adoram was murdered, the entire nation of Israel went into a state of rebellion. They called for Jeroboam so that they could finalize the division of the Kingdom of Israel. Jeroboam took the ten tribes in the north, and Rehoboam, because of his silly wrong decision brought the complete downfall to the nation. When he made the decision to follow the advice of the younger generation, he probably thought he was now really going to be a big man with a lot of friends. But, it didn't work that way. He now had two tribes instead of twelve, and he lost the entire kingdom eventually. We must never make decisions made with wrong advice. It always ends badly!

Conclusion

As we come to the conclusion of this study on nineteen verses from I King's, Chapter twelve, I would just like to tell you that there are so many lessons to learn from the tragic mistake that Rehoboam made when he rejected the wisdom of the older generation and impulsively followed the advice of his younger good-ole-buddy friends. He may have meant well, but he surely messed up big time. It not only cost him as a king much, but it cost the Nation of Israel enormously. It is still costing them today because of his foolish immature decision. So, what are the lessons for us? Well, there are many lessons we can learn, but after much prayer, and with much courage, I am going to address some of the modern decisions in our contemporary churches which may have seemed like good decisions, but I promise you that they will eventually bring total disaster to many of the churches, and sorry to say, to much of the outreach evangelism and mission work which should be going on in the world to complete the Great Commission. I want to ask you to really read carefully the rest of this article, and I beg you to not get mad at this old preacher because too much is at stake to blame the messenger when there is so much need for the message. This last long article will conclude this exegetical study for this newsletter article.

Accommodating The Younger Generation Does Not Very Often Bring Long Term Success!

As we begin this last part of our study, I just simply want to remind you of the main thought of this study. We have been talking about the son of Solomon, a young man, Rehoboam, who came to the throne of Israel after his father died. Rehoboam was just about seventeen years old when he took the throne. Therefore, he was very impressionable, especially from his so-called good young friends. He showed little respect for the older men, but he was ready to change the rules to accommodate his "cool dude" buddies who were counting on him to get some more money and provide greater stuff for them. But of course, in his desire and effort to appease and placate these young buddies, he destroyed the nation of Israel in the process.

I must tell you that I see this happening right before our very eyes in our modern contemporary churches where the wisdom of the older generation has been thrown out the windows, and in has come the younger generation's ideas and new version plans for church conduct and behavior. At the risk of making some of you mad, I must write the rest of this article because my heart is about to burst over the present situation in our land.

What Has Happened To The Truth Of God's Word?

The first thing I want to mention is that in our contemporary churches, we have removed the absolute truth of God's infallible word to accommodate the younger generation of church people who don't want absolute truth, but instead, they want what different people say about the Word, and not exegetical preaching of the Word of God. This modern young generation wants personal dialogue and not preaching or teaching from a pastor or God-called preacher. They would rather have what man says about the Book, rather than what the passages of the Book actually say. And, they want stories rather than verse-by-verse exposition. One of these modern preachers who says that we really cheat our people with expository preaching and that we can never grow our folks with this kind of preaching is Andy Stanley. Andy Stanley is Dr. Charles Stanley's son, and, Charles Stanley has been one of the finest expository preachers for years. But now, his son obviously believes that his daddy has been wrong down through all of these years. Why, Andy Stanley says that we need to get "unhinged" from the Old Testament and quit saying that the Bible says.

In addition to not wanting expository preaching of the Word of God, we now have this "Orality Movement," started by a Jesuit Catholic Priest, and then glamorized and popularized by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. These promoters of this movement strongly believe that the written Word of God is just no longer adequate for the world to get the Gospel message. And yet, Jesus even faced the devil at His temptation by quoting written Scripture to him from the Book of Deuteronomy.

God gave the law of God to Moses in written form on two occasions on Mount Sinai, but yet the written Word is now outdated. If I remember correctly, we have been telling stories to our immature children for years and years, and now we

need to tell stories to the lost world in order to get out the Gospel. This younger generation seems to have forgotten that when the Word of God is preached, God anoints the preacher and the conviction from sin comes through the preached Word of God. But oh yes, we don't want people to feel guilty any longer. We want everyone to go home from church feeling like coddled children, rather than offend them with the cross and see them come to Christ in salvation.

We Have Changed Our Church Dress To Let People With No Dignity Feel Right At Home!

Have you been to a contemporary church recently and seen the way people dress? I mean we are going to the house of the great and mighty God of the universe, and we are dressing just like we came off of the ball fields, and yes of course, many have. There is the preacher sitting on a stool upon the platform with blue jeans with holes in the knees, and a camouflage tee shirt, and of course, his Nike tennis shoes. He has come to teach about a holy God Whom we should revere and respect, but let's not go too far and dress with a tie and suit and white shirt and just make this younger generation feel uncomfortable. Can't you see this younger generation when they get to heaven, if they make it, and then tell Jesus they don't want a white robe, but they want to feel comfortable like they just came from the man cave or some playhouse down on earth? They want to be saved and go to heaven, but let's not take this religious stuff so far that it affects how we have to dress.

Then, this fine outstanding "hip dude" pastor has removed the pulpit from the platform because the emphasis should not be on the precious Word of God, but on the fine and outstanding loud music and entertainment that is going on with the musicians and singers dressed in their immoral clothing dancing around in the name of Jesus while getting more attention than Jesus does.

And, what really gets my attention in these contemporary churches is seeing some of these older pastors who used to represent Christ in all they preached, the way they dressed, and the way they conducted themselves. They used to really understand the sacredness of their responsible position, but now they had to change to accommodate the younger generation that just felt too stiff when they came to church and sat under a respectful preacher who loved Jesus and wanted to provide reverence and worship for every generation. In other words, these pastors have lowered the standards to accommodate the wicked and worldly people who will only come if every ounce of dignity and respect are taken out of the church services.

Then, there are those great up to date preachers like the "cussing preacher," Mark Driscoll in Seattle, Washington who uses profanity in the pulpits, and talks about sex in a pornographic way so that his people don't have to go to the internet to get their daily dose of porn. But, yet if they do, that is alright, because sex is just a natural desire of the flesh; a gift from God. And when Driscoll writes a book about sex, the President of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Danny Akin endorses and signs Driscoll's book to give it some Baptist credibility. But this is alright, because the younger generation just loves to learn about sex any way.

To Accommodate The Younger Generation, We have Placed The Emphasis Upon Recreation And Activities!

Folks, have you taken a look recently at most building programs of local churches? Have you looked at the proposed building budgets in these churches? Well, I have, and I what I have seen is that where you used to see buildings constructed for worship and possibly a fellowship hall, now, almost all new facilities are for gymnasiums, recreation centers, or special buildings for recreation and activities. Oh yes, I believe that building these multipurpose buildings are alright if you are going to have a Christian School or Daycare center, but when we build facilities only to carry out activities and recreation, we reveal how the most important emphasis of our churches is not to worship God, but to accommodate and hopefully reach this younger generation which is into sports, fitness, and just plain having a good time. So, the purpose of the church is to now compete with the world's activities rather than to win this younger generation to Christ.

Also, have you noticed that most of our children and youth activities are just that, activities. Oh, we may have a short Bible story just to make it look like spiritual sessions, but how often do we see or hear about these kids and youth getting saved? Not very often, I am afraid! We spend more money on items for games and fun than we do in teaching the Bible or encouraging take-home materials for the children and youth. And, very often, we try to change our methodology to having fun on I-phones and Androids, rather than getting participation from the youth in conversations and study periods.

In addition, church after church after church is stopping having Vacation Bible School in the summer time because it just costs too much, or we just can't get people who are faithful enough to want to work for four or five evenings. Instead, we are now going to one-day or one night VBS's just so that we don't have to work so hard, and yet, most of these same church people will take their kids to every ball practice and games for weeks on end without even any conscientiousness about missing their church services. Why, JoAnne and I have been traveling to some of our churches on some weekends trying to preach the Gospel and stir up some interest in our African mission work, and we just run into scores of professing Christian church children and parents in the motels and hotels who are out on the road for travel league ball, but they never have these children in Sunday School.

I might also add that a lot of churches have stopped all outreach and evangelism programs, but they surely do have their

churches involved in church league sporting games. And, I will say once more, there is just no guilt or conviction about it at all. As a matter of fact, many of these parents sincerely believe or at least have appeased their consciences about being out of church by calling these sporting events and recreation family time. They have just convinced themselves that it is better to spend a little time with their kids, rather than to take them to church to participate in Bible study and worship. Of course, if parents would take the I-phones and computers away from their children every once in awhile, they might have a little time for family fun and activities.

We Have Swapped Outreach Evangelism And Missions For Social Work And Disaster Relief!

Every week or two, I receive a newsletter from the North Carolina Baptist State Convention here in North Carolina telling us about some special event like dental clinics, immunization clinics, disaster relief, humanitarian programs, and other social programs. But, sad to say, I rarely receive any information about real evangelism efforts, crusades, evangelistic mission ministries, or other specially designed programs in the convention or in the churches, which magnify winning people to Jesus. It just seems that most churches and denominations are having "mission drift" away from the Great Commission. And folks, I have studied the death of many denominations and churches down through the years, and one outstanding trait is that just before these ministries die, they drift into a save-face program of social work and humanitarian activity. Of course, I too believe that humanitarian work and social work is fine, just as long as it is carried out just for the means of opening a door to share the Gospel message. What we do to help meet physical needs right now is good, but helping all of the poor and needy in the world is worthless if we don't share the Gospel and try to rescue these people from hell. Oh yes, there still is a literal burning fiery place called hell described in the Bible (Luke 16), even if a lot of our modern churches aren't preaching it any more.

And friends, I sincerely believe that the move away from genuine evangelism and mission work trying to win people to Christ is basically because so many of our younger generation don't want to be afraid or confrontational in any way. They have been brainwashed by the political correctness crowd that we must not offend anyone for any reason. So, let's stop presenting the Gospel, and go to helping people with evident physical need. Folks, it is not either or, but it is both and at the same time. We do the physical to open the doors and to keep the doors open for the presentation of the truth of the Gospel. To give the physical without the Gospel is nothing short of spiritual treason. And yet, so many pastors and churches have taken this new journey because of the fear and foolishness of a younger generation.

The Younger Generation Is Gravitating To Churches With Large Crowds But No Biblical Doctrines!

These are the days of the no-name, no-denomination, no-doctrine, and no-standard churches. Go down one road and there is a church which has no denominational name. Go down another road, and there is Christ's Church, but there is no indication of what they teach about Christ. Then, there is the Discovery Church, The Elevation Church, The Cove Church, The I-Church, The Journey Church, The Place To Talk Church, The Community Church, The Cross-Point Church, The Bible Chapel, and many, many more names with no obvious way of determining what the church believes until you go there. Then, most people who go to no-name churches don't know what they themselves believe and so when they go to these churches, they still don't know whether what they are teaching is the truth from God's Word. It has always been my belief if you don't put the true title of your church on the sign, then, either you are trying to fool people into coming, or you are ashamed of what you believe, or you don't know what you stand for as a church, and you don't have enough concrete doctrine to be open with the community and tell them what you believe, or in your church, you just may believe whatever you want to believe. And, if it is the latter of these, then I will question whether you have the right motive for even trying to build the church.

Maybe the pastor has started the church to try to be somebody, or maybe he has started the church to make money off the people, or maybe he has such weird doctrine that he just wants to build a following around his doctrine. Of course, if it is for any of these reasons, the pastor may just be on the verge of being a cult leader. My point is, if the church is a valid church of our Lord Jesus Christ, no pastor should be ashamed of what the church believes, and he will be ready to put it on the sign and identify with his basic doctrinal belief.

And, I would also add that a lot of these new non-attached or non-connected churches are built just because the pastor and leadership doesn't want anyone else to hold them accountable for their message, their standards, their stewardship, their structure, and most of all, their behavior. Truly, most cults and false religions come forth from these non-attached people because there is no one to hold them accountable. And, I will say emphatically, that in the early New Testament Church the people always had other apostles, pastors, or other people with solid testimonies to hold them accountable for what they taught, their daily behavior, their use of money, their morality, and even their spiritual growth and development. Accountable congregations are not ashamed of who they are, what they believe, and of course, whom they answer to. So, my advice to all lost sinners, saved converts, and sincere people is to stay away from this plethora of churches that can't put on their sign who they are, or what their basic beliefs are. If you don't, you probably will set yourself and family up for some terrible heart aches sooner or later.



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