

## Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles

Please read 2 Chronicles Chapter 10

In this chapter we learn of (i) the foolishness of Rehoboam, (ii) the division of the kingdom and (iii) the return of (the notoriously wicked) Jeroboam from Egypt. After reading this I'm inclined to wonder "Are these issues political or religious?" Think carefully. I want to suggest that they're both! The Scriptures have long since been downgraded to a status commonly perceived as merely 'religious.' But this is to effectively abstract their application to an alleged 'spiritual realm' safely removed away from the ordinary business of life – i.e., political! God will not be so easily accommodated, however. Accordingly,

- I. Scripture warns governing authorities here of spurning the counsel of the elderly & the experienced in favour of a youthful know it all. Solomon's advisors would have been very wise indeed! Rehoboam displayed great indiscretion by foregoing their counsel. The consequences of doing so were grievous for generations to come. Only rarely do we find leadership wisdom ready to go among the young. An older pair of hands bearing the scars of life's journey is much safer than that of a youth. Paul warns

*'not a novice lest, being lifted up with pride, he may fall under the same judgement as the devil.'* (1Tim 3:6)

- II. The division of the kingdom (Israel in Samaria to the North; Judah & Benjamin in Jerusalem to the South) might have seemed like an outcome driven by human determination. But see v15: we are explicitly told,

*'it was a turn of affairs brought about by God that the Lord might fulfil His word.'*

We shall never comprehend the mystery of God's providence. But, briefly put, God ordains all things: even the free choices of the king. (See Prov 21:1)

- III. We must learn from what Scripture tells us about Jeroboam. [Here's](#) a helpful summary I found online. Jeroboam was the first king of divided Israel. In 1 Kings 14:9, the prophet Ahijah clearly states the sins of Jeroboam: *"You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have aroused [God's] anger and turned your back on [God]."* Jeroboam's sin was idolatry. He created and worshiped gods other than the Lord.

This practice of worshiping other gods began early in Jeroboam's reign. When the kingdom was divided and he controlled the northern part, he stopped all pilgrimages to Jerusalem: *"It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.' One [golden calf] he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other"* (1 Kings 12:28–30).

In addition to sacrificing to these two golden calves, Jeroboam "built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites" (1 Kings 12:31). God's entire system of holy days, sacrifices, and worship was changed into a man-made system focused on worshiping golden calves. In addition to the idolatry, the cities of

Bethel and Dan became the places of worship rather than God's chosen city of Jerusalem (cf. 2 Chronicles 6:6).

**Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles – Questions from Ch 10:**

- *Have we, like Rehoboam, refused to learn from counsellors/teachers who God has raised up for our safety & security? I'm thinking especially of great theologians & Biblical scholars of the past (e.g. Augustine, Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, et al)*
- *Have we settled for a simplistic account of God's word from Church leaders who are more marked by youthful pride than by godly wisdom?*
- *Have we imagined this present Covid crisis caught God unawares? Might it be that this new division within the Church be from the Lord – i.e. between those who are (a) for the Great Reset and (b) those who are (b) for the Great Awakening?*
- *This great ancient schism between Israel & Judah signalled God's judgement on His people. Might this new division signify something similar?*
- *Jeroboam imagined he could worship God according to the dictates of his own heart. Does God have the prerogative to determine how He should be worshipped? How might we know? Where might He tell us?*