

**Christ Community Covenant Church**  
**The Story: Chapter 14 – “A Kingdom Torn in Two”**  
**Pastor Dave Scherrer - January 8, 2012**

How we got here! This is not the way it was supposed to be!!!

God creates humanity in His image: Able is murdered [Genesis 1-2, 3, **4:8-10**]

God chooses a Family: Abraham, Sarah and Isaac [Genesis 12-25]

God makes a Nation: Jacob and his 12 children [Genesis 25-35]

God delivers a Nation: Moses and the Exodus [Exodus]

God places a Nation: Joshua and the Judges [Joshua, Judges, Ruth]

God permits a ‘King’ dom: Saul, David and Solomon [1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings]

**1 Kings 11:1-6**

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women,<sup>2</sup> from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love.<sup>3</sup> He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart.<sup>4</sup> For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.<sup>5</sup> For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.<sup>6</sup> So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done.

Solomon’s heart is divided and he is ruling unwisely by overtaxing the people and forcing them into service in his armies. He has become obsessed with his own power and riches. He is paying little attention to the continuation of the Kingdom after his is gone. He only cares about himself. He is “sowing to the flesh” and that will have terrible consequences and we will talk about that in just a few moments. So Solomon dies and his son, Rehoboam, takes over the throne.

Now in 1 Kings 12 we read about two who would be King. Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, who is from the tribe of Judah and Jeroboam, a trusted aid to Solomon, who is from the tribe of Ephraim. Jeroboam tries to force the hand of Solomon, rebelling against Solomon. But Solomon isn’t quite dead and so Jeroboam runs out of the country to bide his time. Rehoboam then becomes King and begins his rule by listening to his cronies and alienates the ten northern tribes of the nation.

**1 Kings 12:12-15**

Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, as the king had said, “Come back to me in three days.”<sup>13</sup> The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders,<sup>14</sup> he followed the advice of the young men and said, “My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.”<sup>15</sup> So the king did not listen to the people, for this turn of events was from the LORD, to fulfill the word the LORD had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite.

**1 Kings 12:16**

<sup>16</sup> When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: “What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse’s son?”

To your tents, Israel!  
Look after your own house, David!”  
So the Israelites went home.

The Northern Kingdom, made up of 10 tribes, is called Israel and is ruled by Jeroboam.

The Southern Kingdom is two tribes—Judah and Benjamin—and is ruled by Rehoboam.



Then in 1 King 12:25-33 we read that Jeroboam set up his own religion in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Later we read in chapter 14, verses 21-24 that Rehoboam is every bit as evil and self serving, setting up altars in high places and establishing cult prostitutes and pagan rituals. They both deny God.

### ***Is it 'Bad Leadership' or is it 'Bad Fathering?' – Yes***

I think it is interesting right here to make a point that I think has a possibility of being missed. Rehoboam is the grandson of David. The King whose heart was for God in only two generations, the children of such a profound godly ancestor have fallen to perversion and evil. How could it happen? What did Solomon do to wreck his kids so badly?

First and foremost - children grow up and they make their own choices. There are no Grandchildren with God. Only children. Each of us must choose who we will serve. That is the wonder and the danger of free will. Some freely choose to abandon God and His truths.

Secondly; as parents and as leaders, I really think that it is as much of what we don't do as it is what we do that impacts our children either for God or against him. Solomon chooses to care only about himself and his power and his wealth. That was why he married 700 wives. It was about political unions, not sex. It was about power and a spirit of hoarding and clutching at the world. It was about making this world that is passing away, as comfortable and powerful as possible. Solomon taught his children by example. And neglected the spiritual leadership piece completely. God has some things to say to Solomon:

### ***You reap what you sow!***

#### ***Galatians 6:7-10***

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. <sup>8</sup> For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Probably the worst enemy of enthusiasm is time. Human beings have a remarkable and sad capacity for getting tired of wonderful things. Almost every one of you can think of something you

were enthusiastic about but eventually the joy faded. Your first day of vacation on the coast the sunset was breathtaking and made you so happy you could sing. But by the end of your stay you hardly noticed it any more. Vacationers get tired of sunsets, millionaires get tired of money, kids get tired of toys, and Christians get tired of doing good. At first the excitement of teaching that Sunday school class was strong, but now you have grown weary of well-doing. The thrill is gone. At first you felt clean and strong in the Holy Spirit as you led the small group, visited the newcomers, started reading the Bible, maybe worked in the emergency shelter..., but now you have grown weary in well-doing. The inner power and joy have seeped away. It's a chore. You've lost heart. You turn instead to simple comforts, personal desires, fleeting pleasures.

Scripture puts it this way: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap". The verse describes an unalterable law that affects everyone in all areas of life, including family, work, and recreation. It is both a warning and an encouragement.

Every farmer appreciates the meaning of this principle. Let's take just a few moments to see how it crosses over to this story for today. To make sure we understand the full implications.

***First, this truth applies to everyone, whether Christian or non-Christian.***

The principle of Galatians 6:7 is irrevocable; there is no escape, either for the believer or for the unbeliever. It is a law of life.

Did you notice how the verse begins? It says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked." Herein lies the root cause of the careless and indulgent lifestyle of many people. They are deceived. They either do not believe the truth, or they think they will somehow be exceptions to God's laws.

To mock God is to turn up one's nose at Him or attempt to outwit Him. But this is foolish. Second Corinthians 5:10 says, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." If you were required to appear before the judgment seat of Christ in the next five minutes, what kind of fruit would you be able to show?

Second, we reap ***what*** we sow.

This fact is welcome news for those with good habits. But it is a frightening thought for those currently involved in ungodly activities such as promiscuity, drug or alcohol abuse, neglect of family, or mistreatment of others. We would not plant crabgrass and expect to harvest pineapples. Likewise, we cannot sow disobedience to God and expect to reap His blessing.

Third, we reap ***more than*** we sow.

Why do farmers plant seeds? Because they expect to harvest a great deal more than they sow. A single kernel can yield dozens, scores, even hundreds of seeds. It is the same way with both sin and righteousness—a small decision to do either good or bad reaps a much bigger crop, for either joy or sorrow.

Jesus used images from farming to show that when we allow God's Word to produce positive qualities in us, the results multiply: "The one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold" (Matthew 13:23).

On the other side of the ledger are the consequences awaiting those who choose wickedness: "They sow the wind and they reap the whirlwind" (Hosea. 8:7).

***Fourth,*** we reap ***later*** than we sow.

Some are deceived because their present seed does not appear to be producing an immediate crop. So they continue down their course, mistakenly believing that there will never be a harvest.

But unlike the crops of the field, which are gathered at approximately the same time each year, there is no regular timetable for the harvest of life. Some results come quickly; others take a long time. But do not be deceived—their season will come. And by going the second mile now and doing more than is required, we will collect rich dividends later.

“For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.” What a comforting and assuring thought to those who faithfully labor under difficult circumstances! Righteousness in such situations will produce a rich harvest in the future, for our heavenly Father always keeps His promises.

***Psalm 126:5-6***

5 Those who sow in tears  
Shall reap in joy.

6 He who continually goes forth weeping,  
Bearing seed for sowing,  
Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.

***Hosea 10:12-13***

12 Sow for yourselves righteousness;  
Reap in mercy;  
Break up your fallow ground,  
For it is time to seek the LORD,  
Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

13 You have plowed wickedness;  
You have reaped iniquity.  
You have eaten the fruit of lies,  
Because you trusted in your own way,  
In the multitude of your mighty men.

We may wonder why some Christians grow in holiness while others do not. Because holiness is a harvest. It depends on what one sows. Do you want to grow in spiritual maturity? Do you look around and see strong, knowledgeable, zealous Christians and wish you were more like they? What you sow you will reap. What are you sowing? You are sowing something. What is it? You will harvest exactly what you are sowing. If you do not sow spiritual seed how can you expect a spiritual harvest? And you cannot know what that seed looks like if you do not know God. This is your pursuit. To know Him and to follow his will of command. If you are not regular in public and private worship; if you do not spend time daily in the word and prayer; if you do not practice tithing and sacrificial giving; if you do not practice the other disciplines of the Christian life such as Sabbath observance; if you do not practice sacrificial service, how can you expect to harvest the fruit of the Spirit? How can you become Christ-like if you don't feed on the Bread of Life? You will reap what you sow. and as we see from this story of Solomon's life, it directly impacts your children and your children's children too. It is that simple.

Still, the real Christian is tremendously encouraged by this passage. Why? Because it guarantees that his sacrifices pay off in the end. Real Christians have a hard time fitting in these days. They are absolutists in a day of relativism. They are particularists in a day of pluralism. They believe in right and wrong. They believe in truth and error. For much of the world this makes us closed-minded and judgmental. They are disgusted by our narrowness. This means that many “nice” and “fun” people will not like us. This means that we may be socially ostracized and rejected. We may hurt for our children, who don't understand and suffer the consequences of our convictions. Is it worth it? Yes it is. How do we know? Because God promises that we will reap what we sow. Our obedience, our faithfulness, will pay huge dividends that those who sow the flesh will never see.

**Matthew 6:19-21**

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

***The Lower Story: Bad Choices result in Bad Karma***

***The Upper Story: God's Sovereign Will includes His Sovereign Grace***

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

***What are you sowing?***