

KING REHOBOAM'S OVER-TAXATION FOLLY

By Gordon Wayne Watts

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Everyone remembers **King Solomon** (son of **King David**), no doubt – who is known for his wisdom and writing the book of **PROVERBS** of the **JudeoChristian Holy Bible** – but does anyone remember his son, **King Rehoboam**?
Or – what he was “*famous for?*”

I didn't think so – So, it's time for a history refresher – because History repeats itself when we don't learn from history: Rehoboam did what many current politicians (of both political parties – both Democrat and also Republican lawmakers, presidents, etc.) do – and that is, tax the pure living daylight out of their subjects ... uh, I mean, constituents, American citizens (and probably this happens in other countries too).

Politicians never learn – So, it's time for a refresher course! While I do not support or endorse the (very violent) reaction of the citizens (we do NOT support or condone ANY form of violence), nonetheless, it is what it is, and King Rehoboam asked for what he got.

The passages cited / quoted below are accepted as “Canon” Scripture by all practicing Jews and Christians, having come from the JudeoChristian Old Testament. In fact, many Muslims, of the Islam faith, accept these books and passages to some level or extent and consider them prophets to some extent. As well, historians accept the validity of much, if not all, of these historical records.

Without any further ado, here is a small “Fair Use” sample from the NIV (New International Version), interlaced with the KJV (King James Version), the latter of which is in the Public Domain – Here's an online look-up, to verify the small “Fair Use” cite / quote below:

<https://www.BibleGateway.com/passage/?search=I+KINGS+11%3A41-43%2C+12%3A1-31%2C+II+CHRONICLES+9%3A29-31%2C+10%3A1-19&version=KJV;NIV>

<u>Selected passages from the KJV</u>	<u>Selected passages from the NIV</u>
I KINGS 11:41-43 (KJV) 41 And the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon? 42 And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years. 43 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead. I KINGS 12:1-31 (KJV) 12:1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king. 2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence	I KINGS 11:41-43 (NIV) Solomon's Death 41 As for the other events of Solomon's reign—all he did and the wisdom he displayed—are they not written in the book of the annals of Solomon? 42 Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. 43 Then he rested with his ancestors and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king. I KINGS 12:1-31 (NIV) Israel Rebels Against Rehoboam 12:1 Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to make him king. 2 When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard this (he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), he returned from[a]

of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)

3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

5 And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.

6 And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

7 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 for ever.

8 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, and which stood before him:

9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?

10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.

13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

14 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.

15 Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the Lord, that he might perform his saying, which the Lord spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

Egypt. 3 So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him: 4 "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."

5 Rehoboam answered, "Go away for three days and then come back to me." So the people went away.

6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked.

7 They replied, "If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants."

8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him. 9 He asked them, "What is your advice? How should we answer these people who say to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us'?"

10 The young men who had grown up with him replied, "These people have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter.' Now tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. 11 My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'"

12 Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, as the king had said, "Come back to me in three days." 13 The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders, 14 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." 15 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.

16 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. 17 But as for the

16 So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents.

17 But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

18 Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.

19 So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.

20 And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

21 And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

22 But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

23 Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying,

24 Thus saith the Lord, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the Lord, and returned to depart, according to the word of the Lord.

25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Peniel.

26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:

27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out

Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them.

18 King Rehoboam sent out Adoniram,[b] who was in charge of forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam, however, managed to get into his chariot and escape to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

20 When all the Israelites heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. Only the tribe of Judah remained loyal to the house of David.

21 When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mustered all Judah and the tribe of Benjamin—a hundred and eighty thousand able young men—to go to war against Israel and to regain the kingdom for Rehoboam son of Solomon.

22 But this word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God: 23 “Say to Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah, to all Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, 24 ‘This is what the Lord says: Do not go up to fight against your brothers, the Israelites. Go home, every one of you, for this is my doing.’” So they obeyed the word of the Lord and went home again, as the Lord had ordered.

Golden Calves at Bethel and Dan

25 Then Jeroboam fortified Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. From there he went out and built up Peniel.[c]

26 Jeroboam thought to himself, “The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David. 27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam.”

28 After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.” 29 One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. 30 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. [d]

31 Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites. 32 He instituted a

of the land of Egypt.

29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.

30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.

31 And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.

33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

The 1ST KINGS account is repeated for emphasis – in 2ND CHRONICLES – If God felt that is “bears repeating,” then so should we.

II CHRONICLES 9:29-31 (KJV)

29 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, are they not written in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer against Jeroboam the son of Nebat?

30 And Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.

31 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and he was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

II CHRONICLES 10:1-19 (KJV)

10:1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for to Shechem were all Israel come to make him king.

2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was in Egypt, whither he fled from the presence of Solomon the king, heard it, that Jeroboam returned out of Egypt.

3 And they sent and called him. So Jeroboam and all Israel came and spake to Rehoboam, saying,

festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival held in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. This he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he had made. And at Bethel he also installed priests at the high places he had made. 33 On the fifteenth day of the eighth month, a month of his own choosing, he offered sacrifices on the altar he had built at Bethel. So he instituted the festival for the Israelites and went up to the altar to make offerings.

Footnotes:

[a.] 1 Kings 12:2 Or *he remained in*

[b.] 1 Kings 12:18 Some Septuagint manuscripts and Syriac (see also 4:6 and 5:14); Hebrew *Adoram*

[c.] 1 Kings 12:25 Hebrew *Penuel*, a variant of *Peniel*

[d.] 1 Kings 12:30 Probable reading of the original Hebrew text; Masoretic Text *people went to the one as far as Dan*

The 1ST KINGS account is repeated for emphasis – in 2ND CHRONICLES – If God felt that is “bears repeating,” then so should we.

II CHRONICLES 9:29-31 (NIV)

Solomon's Death

29 As for the other events of Solomon's reign, from beginning to end, are they not written in the records of Nathan the prophet, in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam son of Nebat? 30 Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. 31 Then he rested with his ancestors and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son succeeded him as king.

II CHRONICLES 10:1-19 (NIV)

Israel Rebels Against Rehoboam

10:1 Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to make him king. 2 When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard this (he was in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), he returned from Egypt. 3 So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and all Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him: 4 “Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you.”

<p>4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore ease thou somewhat the grievous servitude of thy father, and his heavy yoke that he put upon us, and we will serve thee.</p> <p>5 And he said unto them, Come again unto me after three days. And the people departed.</p> <p>6 And king Rehoboam took counsel with the old men that had stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, saying, What counsel give ye me to return answer to this people?</p> <p>7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou be kind to this people, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be thy servants for ever.</p> <p>8 But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men that were brought up with him, that stood before him.</p> <p>9 And he said unto them, What advice give ye that we may return answer to this people, which have spoken to me, saying, Ease somewhat the yoke that thy father did put upon us?</p> <p>10 And the young men that were brought up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou answer the people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it somewhat lighter for us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.</p> <p>11 For whereas my father put a heavy yoke upon you, I will put more to your yoke: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.</p> <p>12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the king bade, saying, Come again to me on the third day.</p> <p>13 And the king answered them roughly; and king Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the old men,</p> <p>14 And answered them after the advice of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.</p> <p>15 So the king hearkened not unto the people: for the cause was of God, that the Lord might perform his word, which he spake by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.</p> <p>16 And when all Israel saw that the king would not hearken unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? and we have none inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to your tents, O Israel: and now, David, see to thine own house. So all Israel went to their tents.</p>	<p>5 Rehoboam answered, "Come back to me in three days." So the people went away.</p> <p>6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked.</p> <p>7 They replied, "If you will be kind to these people and please them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants."</p> <p>8 But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him. 9 He asked them, "What is your advice? How should we answer these people who say to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us'?"</p> <p>10 The young men who had grown up with him replied, "The people have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter.' Now tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. 11 My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'"</p> <p>12 Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, as the king had said, "Come back to me in three days." 13 The king answered them harshly. Rejecting the advice of the elders, 14 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." 15 So the king did not listen to the people, for this turn of events was from God, to fulfill the word the Lord had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite.</p> <p>16 When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king:</p> <p>"What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse's son? To your tents, Israel! Look after your own house, David!"</p> <p>So all the Israelites went home. 17 But as for the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them.</p> <p>18 King Rehoboam sent out Adoniram,[a] who was in charge of forced labor, but the Israelites stoned him to death. King Rehoboam, however, managed to</p>
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<p>17 But as for the children of Israel that dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.</p> <p>18 Then king Rehoboam sent Hadoram that was over the tribute; and the children of Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. But king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem.</p> <p>19 And Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day.</p>	<p>get into his chariot and escape to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.</p> <p>Footnotes:</p> <p>[a.] 2 Chronicles 10:18 Hebrew <i>Hadoram</i>, a variant of <i>Adoniram</i></p>
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Everyone might want to re-read this historical account:

Rehoboam was foolish, and his unwise folly of over-taxation of his subjects **did NOT end well.**

HERE is proof of the claims that college tuition is a tax – and that current kids are sorely over-taxed – sources cited, and active links embedded in quotes, below:

- "To be clear, I'm conservative and don't seek free college, loan forgiveness, or liberal free handouts. But tuition is technically a tax. [] Funding to an arm of government (state colleges), and students are sorely overtaxed." Source: "[Polk Perspective: Offer relief for taxes dressed up as 'loans'](#)," By Gordon Wayne Watts, Guest columnist, *The Ledger*, Posted Tuesday, Nov 19, 2019 at 12:02 AM: [Archive Today cache](#) ; [Wayback Machine archive](#) ; [Local cache](#) ; [Mirror-1 archive](#) ; [Mirror-2 archive](#) ; [Mirror-3 archive](#) ; "[More to see](#)" folder"
- Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL), another Conservative, agrees with Mr. Watts: QUOTE: "**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, Senator Rick Scott released the following statement after reports that the Florida Board of Governors is considering a tuition increase for state university students. As Governor, Senator Scott fought to hold the line on tuition by vetoing tuition increases, eliminating automatic inflationary tuition increases, freezing tuition, greatly limiting tuition differential, and appointing leaders who share his goal of providing an affordable higher education to Florida students and families...**Senator Rick Scott** said, "Raising tuition on families is a tax increase. And, it's a tax increase that harms Floridians' ability to achieve the American dream of earning a higher education diploma. As families are still struggling to recover from the coronavirus, leaders in Florida should absolutely not consider raising tuition." [Editor's Note: Boldface emphasis in original; not added. But underline is NOT in original; added for clarity.] SOURCE: "[Sen. Rick Scott to Florida Board of Governors: Do Not Raise Tuition on Florida Students](#)," Press Release dated: Monday, November 30, 2020: [Archive Today cache](#) ; [Wayback Machine archive](#) ; [Local cache](#) ; [Mirror-1 archive](#) ; [Mirror-2 archive](#) ; [Mirror-3 archive](#)
- See also: "[Rick Scott: 'Raising Tuition on Families is a Tax Increase'](#)," by Kevin Derby, *Florida Daily, Tuesday*, 01 December 2020: [Archive Today cache](#) ; [Wayback Machine archive](#) ; [Local cache](#) ; [Mirror-1 archive](#) ; [Mirror-2 archive](#) ; [Mirror-3 archive](#)
- As [stated above, in Section II](#), College WAS free in the United States in places -- and very close to it everywhere else, as both Republican Rick Scott and Liberal Senator Bernie Sanders both agree -- and as proved true by multiple fact-checkers. So, if we had

Free College in the past, then supporting "affordable" college in the "here and now" is not unreasonable or obscenely Liberal.

- BONUS: The next time you "get down" on someone wanting to be able to get an education without being in debt for three lifetimes, just remember: The doctor, nurse, electrician, airplane pilot, and so on ALL need an education to avoid killing someone (maybe you?) on a semi-regular basis. "Affordable College," a concept which we used to support (but don't now) threatens national security (and lives) -- as other nations surpass us in this, and other, areas.
- All those old-timers (who got free -- or very affordable college) and are now saying "he took the loan out, so he should repay it" (no matter how much illegal obscene price-gouging occurs) should re-read the point just above.

Signed:

/ Gordon Wayne Watts /
Gordon Wayne Watts
