

slammed his mouth shut in their presence, because he'd already made up his mind. Solomon has a name for that person in the next statement: **"a schemer"**.

PV 24.8-9 ~ *Whoever plans to do evil will be called a schemer. ⁹ The devising of folly is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to mankind.*

AP: In fact, we should all understand that we don't know everything: there is wisdom in **seeking good counsel**. That is how we can have victory instead of failure! But that requires us to have the humility and godliness to be able to follow the advice of wise. Otherwise, if we are going to just seek advice to cover ourselves or to make it look like we're more wise and open-minded than we in fact are, we're nothing more than a person **plan[ning] to do evil—a schemer**. And that will always result in failure.

PV 19.20-21 ~ *Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. ²¹ Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.*

CONCLUSION

1KN 12.16-20 ~ *And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So Israel went to their tents. ¹⁷ But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah. ¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam hurried to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. ¹⁹ So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day. ²⁰ And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only.*

Honestly, I think Rehoboam's issue wasn't borne out of malice. I don't think he intentionally chose to undermine everything that his father had worked for. Rather, I think he just got caught up in the moment and didn't realize what was happening around him. He wasn't able to step back and see the danger around him, and rather than stepping out of the path of the bullet, he stepped right into it.

Rather than **embracing peace to win wars**, he embraced conflict and started one. Rather than **building with wisdom**, he built his kingdom on his own over-inflated ego, and his house shrank from 12 tribes to 2. Rather than **seeking good counsel**, he sought to do his own will, which was evil, and he proved himself a schemer and became an abomination to his people.

If only we would learn from his example. If only we'd learn to step away from our own understandings and our own wisdom and, instead, seek to enter the peace and security that only comes from seeking to follow the wisdom and will of the creator of the universe.

PV 2.6-12 ~ *For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; ⁷ he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, ⁸ guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. ⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; ¹⁰ for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; ¹¹ discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, ¹² delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, ¹³ who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, ¹⁴ who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil, ¹⁵ men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.*

INVITATION

#646 [Exp - OTW]
07/04/2025

From a Father to His Son – Pt 5

PC Pchd

PV 24.1-9

QUESTION: What can we learn from the 30 sayings of Solomon to his son?

TRN TO PV 24

INTRODUCTION

ILL—Bullet Time (popularized in "the Matrix"; called that because the character was able to speed up to faster than a bullet and could see how things would move ahead of time) It's one of my favorite special effects: part of why I love super-heroes like Quicksilver and the Flash: I love the idea of being able to see the bullet as it leaves the gun and be able to track, and avoid, its aim!

BACKGROUND

1KN 12.1-5 ~ *Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. ² And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from^[a] Egypt. ³ And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam, ⁴ "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you." ⁵ He said to them, "Go away for three days, then come again to me." So the people went away.*

BKGRND: If you've been paying attention these last few weeks, you'll have noticed a pattern in these **"30 wise statements"** we've been reviewing from **PV 22-24**: Solomon was worried about his son, and the influence his friends had upon him. For example: in the 3rd of his 30 statements, he warned against their temper (**22.24-25**). In the 15th and 16th of the 30, he warned against sinful, drank, and gluttonous people, and how their end would be poverty (**PV 23.17-21**). Come the final chapter and the 20th statement, his attention turns back to Rehoboam's associates.

EC 9.13-18 ~ *I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me. ¹⁴ There was a little city with few men in it, and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siegeworks against it. ¹⁵ But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man. ¹⁶ But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard. ¹⁷ The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. ¹⁸ Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.*

Solomon had seen countless examples of that one sinful man or woman's actions undermining wisdom. And as we return to the next 5 statements, Solomon seems to see that future ahead for his own son. For that reason, he advises his son that true wisdom comes through getting into **"bullet-time"** and seeing the danger ahead of you. In particular, that would be shown by being able to go against the grain when you need to—knowing how to **win wars, what to build with**, and what to seek above all else. Today, that same advice is needed. For there are times that our instincts are pointing in the exact wrong direction. There are times when we need to, similarly, get into **"bullet-time"**!

BD1: Embrace Peace to Win Wars (24.1-2)

Rehoboam had a tough day ahead of him: proving himself as the new king. **Would he be strong and wise like his father? Or would he be something else?** Solomon seemed to look forward to this day as he advised: *Be not envious of evil men,*

nor desire to be with them, ² for their hearts devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble. (PV 24.1-2)

BKGRND: These young men had grown up with Rehoboam, and Solomon likely knew them all well and by name. And for that reason, his call to Rehoboam before he ever found himself in that **“war room decision”** was specifically that he be cautious about who he lets into his **“inner circle”**.

But now, his father was gone, and it was up to Rehoboam to make the hard choices. But he doesn’t; instead of taking his father’s advice, he turned to the advice of his friends, who said, *“Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,’ thus shall you say to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s thighs. ¹¹ And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.’” (1KN 12.10b-11)*

This was some strong-man language. And there’s a place for that—but if you’re aware of Old Testament history, this wasn’t it. The words of Rehoboam’s friends were violent and troubling—they were telling him to make a show of strength **so he could win the battle**. But Solomon would have given very different advice: in his 30 statements, he was advising his son to cast off the company of violent men lest their attitude and wickedness rub off on him. Instead, he called for him to **embrace peace, and he would win wars**. Of course, our Lord would make the same call in His Sermon on the Mount: *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (MT 5.9)*

AP: None of us today are in Rehoboam’s situation: but sadly, we do find ourselves surrounded by the same kinds of influences: men and women calling for a different kind of violence: emotional and spiritual harm. We all know people always looking or speaking **“daggers”** at other people: angry words and deeds committing little acts of violence upon the lives of others. They feel big for their tough attitude and stubbornly dug-in heels. But Solomon advises that rather than just acting tough and strong, we need to learn how **to embrace peace**—because if we do, we won’t just win battles: **we will win wars**.

RM 12.14-21 ~ *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

BD2: Build with Wisdom (24.3-4)

ILL—Amazon Pre-Fab Houses (can buy just about anything online; now, even a house; anything from a few hundred sq ft to two story with 6 bedrooms; \$23,000 shipped in two weeks from China; in theory, anyone can build a house now) I’m amazed by the continual innovations; but something tells me this may not be a good one. You don’t get a solid home for less than the cost of a Winnebago, and if you could, I shouldn’t be assembling it!

1KN 12.12-14 ~ *So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, “Come to me again the third day.” ¹³ And the king answered the people harshly,*

and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, ¹⁴ he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”

EX: As the new king, Rehoboam would be seeking to make his reputation: to develop a name for himself. And he thought he could do so with threats and by strong-arming the people.

PV 24.3-4 ~ *By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; ⁴ by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

Solomon’s wisdom reveals the opposite of what Rehoboam and his friends believed: rather than trying to build with strength, might, and threats, Rehoboam should have been **building with wisdom**.

AP: Rehoboam sought to build on his hard words and a strong reputation. He wanted to be remembered as more manly and powerful than even his father before him! And let’s just say: it didn’t go too well for him. Instead, he should have built upon wisdom: for Solomon’s victory wasn’t in how strong and mighty of a man he was: it was because of the wisdom and understanding he gained from the Lord. And that same holds true for us today: you can’t be successful unless you start with wisdom!

MT 7.24-27 ~ *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

BD3: Seek Good Counsel (24.5-9)

ILL—Giving Advice (certain areas I’m knowledgeable about; I like to advise on them; happy to help) But there are few things that annoy me so much as a person coming to me for advice that they have no intention of following.

The true tragedy of Rehoboam’s folly isn’t that he made a bad choice—it’s that he easily could have made the right one! For, he didn’t have an empty house with no one leftover from Solomon’s time as king. In fact, he had a group of tested and proven wise men just ready to be listened to!

1KN 12.7 ~ *And they said to him, “If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.”*

EX: Their advice was solid: they didn’t say to give in to all their demands. **“Just give them your ear; listen to them”**. These were the wise men that Solomon spoke about in his next statement: *A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might, ⁶ for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory. (PV 24.5-6)*

But Rehoboam didn’t like what they had to say: *But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him. (1KN 12.8)* It seems like he had already made up his mind what he wanted to hear, and it was only half listening to what the old men had to say. And that’s where he lived out the next statement of Solomon: *Wisdom is too high for a fool; in the gate he does not open his mouth. (PV 24.7)* In Jewish culture, the elders of a city would gather in the gate for judgment and for advising those in need. But Rehoboam, like the fool in **PV 24.7**, didn’t have anything to say at the advice of the wise: instead he