

Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Lives Rediscovering Some Old Testament Characters

Rehoboam: The Reckless Phony

1 KINGS 12:1–16



The Heart of the Matter

Movies and TV shows have two different sides: the camera side seen by the viewers, and the other, hidden side seen only by those who go behind the scenes. From the camera side, buildings and landscapes and luxurious living rooms and even campfires at night look absolutely real. But behind the scenes, the whole thing is exposed as nothing more than a thin veneer of plastic, wood, and metal, held together with flimsy, temporary materials and made to look real with the art of lighting and the tricks of the trade. On the surface, everything seems genuine and sturdy. But behind the big front, there's hardly anything there! It's all a big, painted, professional show! This perfectly describes Rehoboam, who lived in the days of the kings. He is a rather obscure character, but one who illustrates the principle that what appears on the surface doesn't always match what lies under the surface. We can learn many lessons about integrity from his life!



Discovering the Way

1. Rehoboam *Appeared* to Be a Good Leader . . . Not So! (1 Kings 12:1–17; 2 Chronicles 10:15–19)

In order to win votes, Rehoboam sought wise counsel to help him lead well, but he had no intention of following the advice he received. Rehoboam's decision to oppress the people led to civil war!

2. Rehoboam *Appeared* Obedient . . . Not So! (2 Chronicles 11:1–12, 18–23)
Rehoboam, now king of Judah, faked obedience to the Lord's command not to attack Israel. But really, he fortified cities and assembled troops to fight against Israel.

3. Rehoboam *Appeared* to Worship God . . . Not So! (1 Kings 14:21–31; 2 Chronicles 12:1–3, 9–11)

Rehoboam really worshiped the detestable Ammonite gods of his mother.

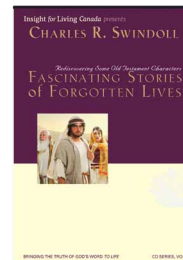


Starting Your Journey

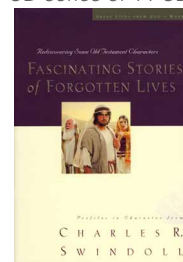
Are you a phony like Rehoboam? Read Ezekiel 33:30–33 and examine your heart. Ask God to show you where what is perceived doesn't match what's in your heart. Seek His forgiveness.



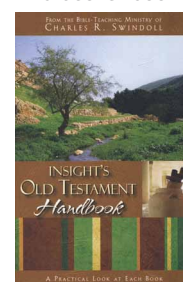
Tools for Digging Deeper



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