

When the Standards Fall



 If you brought your Bibles turn them to First Kings, 14:21. As this morning we discuss the topic - When the Standard Falls.

Have you considered how important standards are in the world in which we live? Our daily lives are inundated with information about standards, whether we realise it or not.

We get to hear quite a bit about standard education, and the standard of living, and the standard of conduct in ethics and morality, whatever that may be.

Standards are how we measure ourselves against one another, and standards tell us and others how much value we place upon an object or a relationship.

The standards that you have for the things that you care about would be very high. The standards that you have for the things that you disregard will be very low.

The difficulty that we have in today's society is not in understanding what standards are but in choosing a proper source by which to measure standards by.

It's difficult to understand what a good standard is whenever the measuring stick keeps moving.

It's kind of like trying to determine how tall you are by walking in and out of petrol stations and using the sticker on the door to figure out, am I 5'11" or 7 foot 10. Just depending on who hung the sticker determines your standard of measurement.

We are at an economic crossroads that has been created by entitlements and debts where we have elected a lifestyle that we cannot afford to live.

We're at a security crossroads where we cannot determine what a terror attack is, and what is just an outrageous response to a nation that watches no YouTube at all, because they don't have any internet feeds to watch YouTube on.

But hey, let's not talk about logical things like that.

We're at a crossroads. In education where we can train a child how to safely engage in fleshly union between man and a woman outside of marriage, but we can't train them how to take a college entrance exam.

We're at a crossroads. As a people who call upon the name of the LORD to determine whether or not the established standards of the Word of God are going to be upheld in our congregations.

You see the grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

His standard is the same yesterday, today and it will always be. You cannot say why the relatively of the world has affected the standards of life.

The relativity of the world does not change the standard of truth bound in the pages of God's Word.

The Bible says, there is a way that is right unto man but, the end thereof is death. Make no mistake about this. Indeed, our God still reigns.

The same God, who called Moses to the mountain and gave him The Law, is the same God who is sitting on the Throne this morning watching every word that is spoken in this service.

Is the same God who whispered into the ears of the prophets that they might write down the sacred text that you have in your Bibles, is the same God who is great and greatly to be praised.

We may live in a world that is trying to change the rules into what the standards of life may be.

But our God is still the way. He is still the Truth. He is still
The Life. He is still the standard!

Come-on CHURCH! It's time to set the standards!

Please be standing for the reading of God's Word:



Today we discuss what happens when the standard falls. We are reading from 1Kings 14:21 to the end of the chapter.

And Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was 41 years old when he became king. And he reigned 17 years in Jerusalem, the city, which the Lord had chosen out of all of the tribes of Israel to put his name there.

His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess. Now Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed more than that of all their fathers had done.

For they had also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. And there were also perverted persons in the land, and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD has cast out from before the children of Israel.

And it happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak king of Egypt, came up against Jerusalem. And he took away all of the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the King's house.

And he took away everything. Read that line with me again - and he took away everything. He also took away all of the gold shields which Solomon had made.

Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place and committed them to the hands of the captains of the guard who guarded the doorway of the King's house. And whenever the king entered the house of the LORD, the guards carried them, then brought them back into the guardroom.

Let us pray:

H Heavenly Father, let us be challenged today by your word of truth that endures forever.

That we are the redeemed of the LORD who says so, and that we will have a legacy of upholding the standard of your truth in our generation, rather than be willing to settle and watch it fall. In Y'shua's name Come! Holy Spirit Come! – AMEN!

You may be seated.



In 1 Kings, 14:21, we read a truly tragic legacy. There is no PR firm that could put a positive spin on Rehoboam's reign in Israel.

Not only is it an utter failure but whenever you consider Rehoboam's legacy and his lineage who could honestly say I would've expected more from the son of Solomon and the grandson of David, the giant killer.

Consider his grandfather first. King David is the man after God's own heart. King David is the individual with whom God made covenant and promised that David's seed would sit on the throne in Jerusalem forever.

If it weren't enough to come from such a heritage as David, not only is Rehoboam David's grandson but he is Solomon's son.

David had many sons. If he would've been Absalom's son, we could've said Well, he's got a rebellious spirit in him, and he's just an evil seed.

But Solomon, Solomon is so wise and so discerning that leaders from all of the nations of the earth come to talk with Solomon to receive wisdom and counsel that God had given him.

Solomon's Kingdom is known as the envy of the nations. Solomon brings prosperity to such a level in the nation of Israel during his reign that silver and gold are used as the hinges on his horse stable.

The Bible actually records that all of the wealth of Solomon had, no other kingdom on the face of the earth has obtained it before or since.

Why? Because The Word of God is true. The Bible says, blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD. Say that with me. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD. That word blessed means to be envied.

It literally means that the rest of the world would look at you and be jealous of how good God is to you.

The point is when you make God the priority of your life, He pours out Blessings upon you to the point that others are envious of His goodness to you.

The standard in Israel in the day of David was that they were going to pursue God as a man after God's own heart. God became their standard.

Solomon by asking for wisdom and discernment remained with God as the standard. But suddenly we read of the legacy of Rehoboam and all that he lost.

How much did Rehoboam lose? I'm glad you asked. I'm going to tell you.



Solomon sat on an ivory throne, pure ivory, overlaid in gold. If it's not enough that it's made out of pure ivory, Solomon had it covered in gold.

Because he wanted it to stand out from the marble steps, the six that led up to the pedestal upon where his throne sat.

And on these six marble steps were solid gold lions, 12 in all. One for each tribe and a lion to represent the lion of the tribe of Judah.

Over Solomon's head were huge cedar beams that the Bible describes coming from Lebanon and taking entire ships just to move one.

And on each of these huge beams hung gold shields. Two hundred in all, solid gold.

These solid gold shields were there for one purpose and one purpose only.

Every morning when Solomon would go into the Temple, he would walk from his Throne Room, down here in the city of David, up to the top of Mount Zion because, in Jerusalem everything leads up to the Temple.

The Temple is the presence and the place where God dwells, so we should always walk up into the presence of God.

Solomon would leave his Throne Room in the morning to pray, and the royal guard would take the two hundred gold shields down from the cedar beams and a hundred of the royal guard would line the right side of the road and a hundred of the royal guard would line the left side of the road and there they would make a walk way of solid gold that Solomon would walk from the throne right into the Temple to have a word with Jehovah God.

Historians said as the eastern sky was being lit by the desert sun it was such a marvellous sight to behold.

These two hundred solid gold shields that it literally looked as if God Himself was reaching out His arms to receive Solomon into His presence.

It was a marvellous thing to behold. Historians would say that there wasn't a King on Earth who received such a distinguishment and honour. It became the standard for royalty.

For certain King David and King Solomon established a gold standard in Israel. And without a doubt we should expect the same from Rehoboam, their son and grandson.

But today we read a very different story. It tells a tragic legacy. When you read 1 Kings 14:25 and 26 you'll find these words, that in the fifth year King Rehoboam, the king of Egypt, say that with me. The king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem and he took away the treasures of the house of the Lord, and he took away the treasures of the king's house. And just in case you wondered how much treasure he took away, the writer of 1 King's emphasises it by saying, he took away everything.

How much? Everything! Did he take away the 12 gold lions because those were really nice?

Everything! Did he take away that Ivory Throne that was laid in gold, because that had to be heavy? He needed some help to carry that off.

Everything! Did he take away the big cedar beams? Gone! What about the two hundred gold shields that Solomon used when Solomon would walk into the temple? Say it with me, everything!

Now significant that we read that this is the king of Egypt because every time we see Egypt interaction with Israel, we must recognise that Egypt is a place of bondage.

Egypt is a type of sin. Pharaoh represents a type of Satan. What has happened here in the life of Rehoboam is what happens to those who get set free and then walk right back into the bondage that the deliverer had just freed them from.

You see God sent Moses as a deliverer into the place of sin, Egypt, and freed the children of Israel from bondage.

Yet we read about Rehoboam that he had allowed the same sins that plagued the children of Israel in bondage to be a part of the Kingdom in which he ruled.

And so, God sends the Egyptian king that type of sin, that type of Satan, to come and take away how much? Everything that God had blessed Rehoboam with.

Here's the point. You and I, who have been set free by Jesus Christ, just like the slaves of Egypt, have received our Heavenly deliverer who is the bright and He is the Morning Star.

He died and redeemed us so what The Word says would be true in our life, that whom the sun sets free is free indeed.

That means without doubt or without question. When we allow that serpent of old, Satan, to tempt us into going back into what God has brought us from then we stand to lose everything.

Satan will not settle with just tormenting and harassing you. He wants it all. He wants your family. He wants your business. He wants every ounce of everything that you could ever hope to obtain.

Because when Jesus Christ set you free, He snatched you out of Satan's jaws and let the devil know that he had lost yet again.

Child of God! Don't give him one more inch. Don't allow him to take everything.

Allow the gold standard of The Word of God to rise up in you.

For the Bible says, that if we would resist the devil, he would flee. You don't have to suffer under his rule anymore.

You've been set free, and whom the SON sets free, is free indeed. Give the Lord a hand clap of praise.



 But in Rehoboam's case, it's gone. All gone. You want to know how much it would cost to replace it. Four billion dollars. That's a bad day.

Hey king, how you doing? Well, we're down a bit. What a truly tragic legacy. The King who lost it all.

Sometimes I wonder what historians would look back on this generation and say your legacy will be.

I wonder if they'll look at you as those who were willing to uphold the standards of our fathers and forefathers. Or will they say that you are the generation who lost it all.

Will you as a generation have enough courage to face the challenges of our day?

You, as a people be willing to overcome, no matter the cost, no matter the sacrifice, no matter the amount of personal effort, as previous generations of Kenyans have had the responsibility to do.

You see, you as a country don't need a bail out. You need a standard bearer.

You need someone who will stand up and speak the truth. Who will say this is right and this is wrong? Who will confront what is in front of you as deception and know that truth will set us free?

If you do not raise the standard in this generation then you will have a truly tragic legacy. What will you pass onto your children and your grandchildren?

What quality of life will they hope to have? Or what hope will they have at all?

You see your forefathers established a gold standard. When they introduced Christianity to you Kenyans, history records that they entered into a Covenant with God.

They bowed to God's Righteousness. They bowed to God's Standards.

They vowed to take the gifts that God had given them and established His Name, His Kingdom in this country.

Because they made God their priority. God blessed this land, and He made this small country the envy of the nation.

How did they establish God as a priority? Through prayer, through reading of His Word. Through fulfilling the Ten Commandments.

By letting people know that you had a foundation of truth that was unshakable. By making sacrifices and going down on their knees and pray.

And with your mighty missionaries' men, when fasting and prayer and a big heart was considered the only thing that would strengthen a young growing country to go forth.

So, what have you done with the priceless privilege of the standard that you have been given?

Have you kept it? Have you protected it? Or have you removed it and provoked God in doing so?

Have you done everything in our power to uphold the standard that God established? Or have you, as a society, done what Rehoboam did and created more evil in all who have come before you?

Your government looking of ways to take The Ten Commandments are out of your schools, the place where you expect children to receive knowledge. Yet the Bible says that the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.

No Ten Commandments, no education. It's more than wall art, its truth!

Yet, the will of the people gets broken. Your budget gets broken. Every promise that you receive from every political sound bite is broken. And what are you, the people, left to do?

Do you uphold the standard? Do you become one country under God again? Or do you look good for the photo album and clap and shout and dance about and allow the standard to continue to fall?

How do we raise the standard? You raise the standard by doing what The Word of God says to do? 2 Chronicle 7:14, if my people, which are called by My Name, will humble themselves and prayer. Then they will hear from Heaven, and I will heal their land.

Recognise that every generation gets a choice and if you choose to humble yourselves and get before God, then by going down to your knees can you raise the standard of this country once again.

I assure you of this! Pointing the finger will not change things. Calling names will not change things. Debate will not raise the standard.

Action will raise the standard. And the action that you, the people of Kenya needs is Prayer, Prayer, and more Prayer.

If the standards of this country are going to be raised, it is going to be up to the body of Christ to do so. It is going to be up to you all to do so.

You all need to realise, that you raise the standard in your home. You all need to realise, that you raise the standard every time you hit your knees in prayer.

You all need to realise, that you raise the standard every time you open up The Word of God to read.

You all need to realise, that you raise the standard in your voting booth by refusing to vote for anyone who takes a position that is contrary to The Word of God.

You have to recognise that you are the standard bearers. You are the standard bearers.

Every leader in this country is nothing more than a reflection of those who elected them. So, you are the standard bearers.

If the legacy is going to be a tragic one, it's yours to bear. And if the legacy is going to be a righteous one, it's yours to bear.

The future of this country is not in the hands of the liberal media. The future of this country is not in the hands of elected officials. The future of this country is not in the hands of federal judges. The future of this country is in the hands of The Church of the Living God.

Because the Bible says, greater is He who is in you, than he who is in the world.

The Psalm said, let the redeemed of the LORD say so. It says that one of us can put thousand to flight, and two of us can put ten thousand to flight. When we take God's Word and we put it to action.

Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered. Raise the standard!



B Because when you read stories like 1 King's 14, you find out how far it can fall and how fast.

Consider the math. King David ruled for 40 years. And after 40 years he handed to Solomon the kingdom. Then Solomon ruled for 40 years.

At the end of 80 years of Israel's history we find God has been their priority and He is their standard; They are the envy of the world.

Then we read that in the fifth year of King Rehoboam, the king of Egypt comes, and he takes everything. Eight-five years of history erased in a day.

How? Rehoboam forgot who he was.

Read 1 King's 14:21 and you find in Rehoboam are two individuals. It says Rehoboam the son of Solomon, and then it tells us that his mother's name was Naamah. She was an Ammonitess.

In this verse we recognise that Rehoboam has a choice to make. He can choose to be what his heritage said he should be, an Israelite. For which The Word of God says, behold oh Israel the LORD our God is what? One!

Or he can choose to be as what Naamah was an Ammonite; That says, well there's a god for the harvest and there's a god for the sun, and there's a god for fertility, and there's a god for the planting, and there's a god for the reaping, and a god for the sowing. And a god for this and a god for that, and so on and so forth.

Rehoboam is in a problem. He's got a choice to make. He can choose to uphold the standard and allow it to be, "behold oh Israel, The LORD our God is one". "Thou shalt have no other gods before me".

Or he can say, well if mamma ain't happy, ain't nobody happy. I mean, I'm kind of stuck in the middle. I don't want to rock the boat. I mean, I don't want to say anything that's going to upset mamma.

Rehoboam refused to raise the standard. The thing that I find interesting in this passage of Scripture is that God did not judge Rehoboam until Rehoboam chose.

Rehoboam ruled five years, and in those five years I see God giving Rehoboam the chance to choose.

Rehoboam, I know that your father Solomon married this woman against my will.

Rehoboam I know that the heritage that she has is causing confusion in you.

Rehoboam I know that there's a lot of voices that are pulling at you from the right and from the left, and from every which direction.

But I have given you My Word Rehoboam! And The Word says, “thou shall have no other gods before me”. It says, “I Am the LORD and there is none other”.

It says, “there's none likened unto Me, and I Am a jealous God”. Choose you this day Rehoboam because you're the King.

If you don't want the altar erected, you sign the edict, and the altar goes away.

But Rehoboam said, I don't want to rock the boat. Allow me to appease rather than please the Living God.

So, here's the question you have to ask yourselves in your day. Because the Bible says that we are Kings and Priests.

The Bible says that we have the power to choose. The Bible says, choose you this day life or choose death.

What will you choose to do in this generation? Will you remember who you are and where you've come from? Or will you choose not to rock the boat?

If you don't rock the boat, the standard will not fall one inch. It will fall fathoms. It is time to say that you are willing to rock the boat and not allow the standard to fall on your watch.

When the Government decides that morality should be removed from society, it's time to rock the boat.

When the world will sit and watch lunatics around the world use nuclear weapons. It's time to rock the boat.

When a government will tax a man who is working to feed a man who can work but won't work, it is time to rock the boat.

If you do not rock the boat, if you do not raise the standard, then you will have a tragic legacy.

Rather than be the shining city on the hill that you were created to be.

Why? Because the Bible says, all nations that forget God are turned into hell.

It is time for The Church of Jesus Christ to realise that you can once again become one country under God.

That you can be a land that is showered with His goodness, with His grace, and with His mercy.

Church! It's time to rock the boat!

Because brass is no substitute when your standard is gold. How much did Rehoboam lose? Everything!

Now Rehoboam still had a choice. Rehoboam could have done what David did. David had a day in which he lost everything. You'll find that David was in a place called Ziklag and the Amalekites came, and they took everything.

His children, his wife. They burned his house. It was gone. And David separated himself and the Bible says he encouraged himself in the LORD. And he said, LORD what should I do?

Now, that's a very important and powerful prayer for you to pray sometimes.

LORD what should I do? God told David, pursue! For you shall surely overcome. Recognise that the Bible says you are more than conquerors through Christ.

And when the enemy comes and takes everything, you have a right to pursue. Because if God is for you, who can be against you? You can overcome.

But because Rehoboam forgot that he was David's grandson, rather than ask God what he should do and pursue Egypt and go get his gold shields back.

Brethren, believe me, you take \$4 billion dollars from me, you're going to see me again. We're going to find each other somewhere.

Rehoboam says, you know fellas, do we have any brass? Because I mean I think if we can take brass and just polish it, it will look really nice.

And the point I'm making is this. Rather than raise the standard, he went out of his way to make it look like it used to.

Rather than do what was required of him, he decided that brass was a good substitute. But I assure you, brass is no substitute for gold.

There is a lot of brass in your lives. There is a lot of brass in your Churches.

You are going out of our way to make it look as good as it used too. Rather than shining The Light of The Gospel on it and see if it passes the sniff test.

I assure you, when it comes to preaching, brass is no substitute for gold, and the gold standard is to preach The Word of God.

Paul said to Timothy, I beseech you before God who will judge the living and the dead. Do these things, preach The Word, preach The Word, preach The Word!

Do not entertain, do not lecture, do not exalt - preach the word.

You can preach the word, and the addict will be set free.

You can preach the word, and the sinner will forsake his way.

You can preach the word, and the drunk will drink no more.

You can preach the word, and the liar will start walking in The Way of The Truth and The Light. Because there is no substitute for The Holy Word of God.

It shines like gold, and everything else pales in comparison.
It is sharper than any two-edged sword.

It is priceless as diamonds. Every word is pure. It is alive and
it is powerful.

It'll set you free and comfort you in a day of trouble. It'll
save a starving soul.

Read it, love it, live it, use it. It's solid gold! – Take it!!!

 Don't substitute God's Word for anything else, because brass is no substitute for gold.

Church attendance. Brass! Worship is solid gold. Worship! Solid gold.

Well, is everything in your life, right? Well, I go to Church. That's brass.

Some people come to Church from tradition. Some people come to church because they think it's something they have to check off on their laundry list so that God's stays happy with them.

Don't get me wrong. God likes seeing you here. But you're not here for you, you're here for Him.

The point I'm making is this, concerning the standard that we want to raise. If God tarries and you get to meet your grandchildren, you don't want to tell them what a great country we used to be. You want them to tell you what a great country we are.

But the choice to raise that standard begins with you in your house.

Church! In closing I share; this message on the story of Rehoboam can come across as a sobering message.

But I deliver this message in the name of Y'shua Messiah, Jesus Christ to you as an invitation.

This country Australia is a God scented country, a Christian country. Please receive that. As our LORD spoke! All are welcomed.

Take this picture? If God's chosen would stand up as an army, a voice, how mighty and powerful the CHURCH would be.

Come back! Come back to your first Love.

Come back, just as you were new believers rejoicing in your newfound forgiveness.

Our Lord, Y'shua Messiah is coming back! He's coming back to all who believes and obeys His commands.

Oh'! It's time Kenyans! It's time to wake-up! Stand-up! Speak-up! This is your country; this is your land. This is "The Light of Africa".

It's time the CHURCH starts setting the standards within this country, (not Nairobi!)

Come-on! Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered. Let's set The Standards!

That's, The Living WORD! Amen.

(Bob Stone)