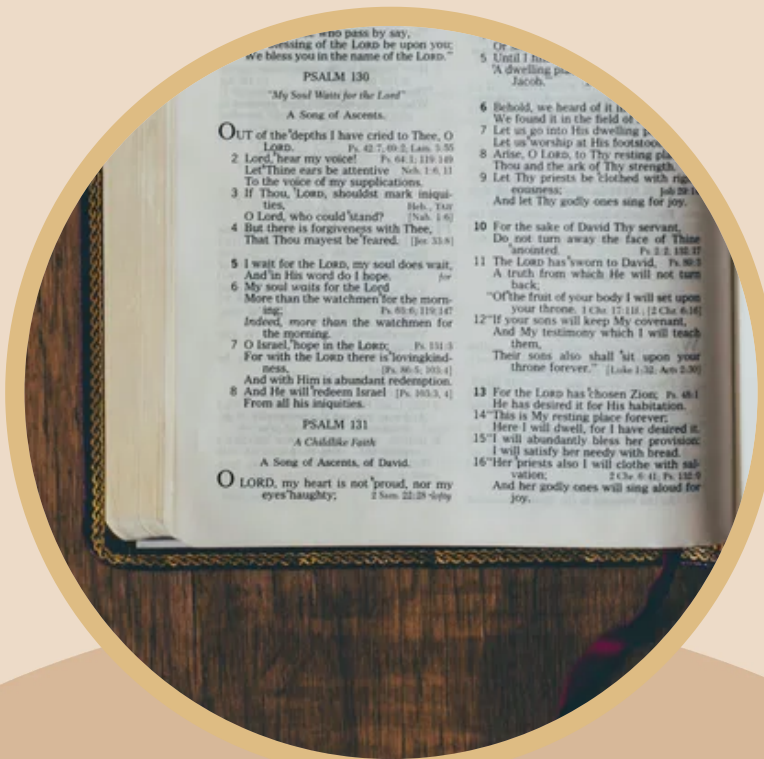




King Rehoboam's Harshness and the Division of Israel



A 7-day study exploring King Rehoboam's harsh decisions, the division they caused, and the lessons for leadership and unity.

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Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day Bible study on King Rehoboam's harshness and the division of Israel. This pivotal moment in biblical history teaches us powerful lessons about leadership, humility, and the consequences of pride. After King Solomon's reign, his son Rehoboam ascended to the throne. When the people requested relief from Solomon's heavy yoke, Rehoboam consulted both older advisors and his peers. Sadly, he chose to follow the harsher counsel of his peers, leading to his harsh response. *This harshness caused the kingdom of Israel to split: ten tribes formed the Northern Kingdom under Jeroboam, while Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to Rehoboam.* This division signals how leadership choices deeply affect a nation's unity and spiritual health.

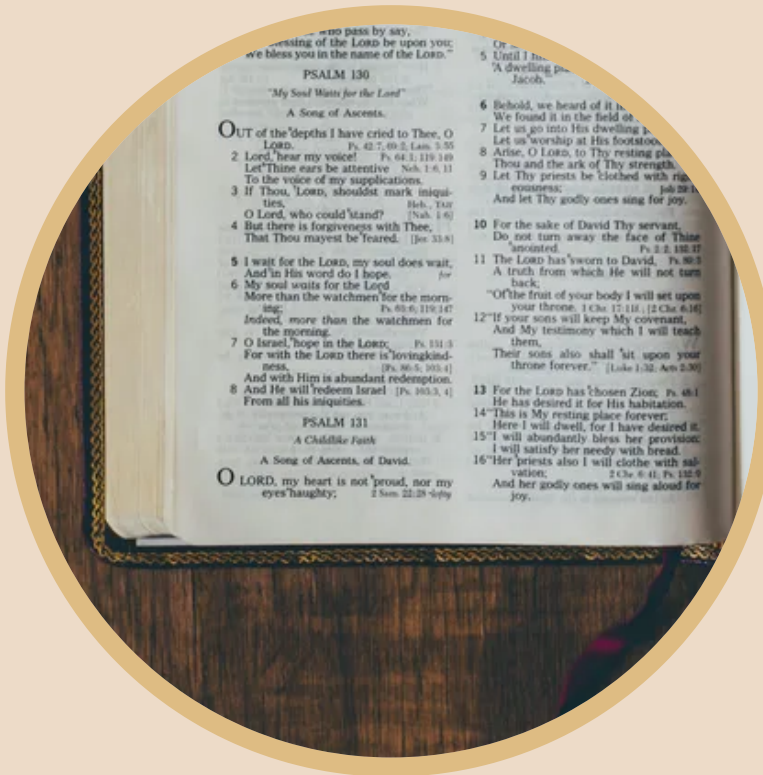
Throughout this study, we will delve into Scripture passages highlighting Rehoboam's journey and its consequences. You'll discover the vital role humility plays in leadership and how pride can lead to division and pain. We'll also explore the broader biblical themes of God's justice, mercy, and desire for unity among His people.

As you reflect on these lessons, consider your own life – areas where harshness or pride might be causing division, and where God is calling you toward reconciliation and wisdom. **May these days of study encourage a heart of repentance, understanding, and purposeful leadership rooted in God's truth.**





Day 1: The Legacy Rehoboam Inherited



Day 1:  The Legacy Rehoboam Inherited

Your Verse

1 Kings 12:1-4 NIV - "Rehoboam went to Shechem, where all Israel had gathered to make him king... The people spoke to Rehoboam: 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke your father put on us...'"

Supporting Scriptures

- *Ecclesiastes 1:9 - "There is nothing new under the sun."*
- *Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."*



Day 1:  The Legacy Rehoboam Inherited

Devotional: The Weight of a Leader's Legacy

Today, we explore the moment Rehoboam ascended the throne and faced the people's plea. King Solomon left a mixed legacy: wealth, wisdom, but also burdensome taxes and labor demands on the people. The Israelites, feeling weighed down, asked Rehoboam to lighten their load. This moment was Rehoboam's opportunity to respond with wisdom and grace.

His choice would either heal or harm the nation. As leaders or followers, we face similar moments of decision — whether to act with compassion or harshness. Notice the dynamic tension between legacy and innovation, tradition and change. Rehoboam needed humility to hear the people's suffering genuinely.

How often do we inherit circumstances requiring wisdom beyond our years? How do pride and fear influence our choices? Pride can blind us to the needs of those we lead or love. Rehoboam's failure was not just about policy but about listening with a heart open to God's guidance. Let us pray today for the humility to listen well and courage to lead with empathy.



Day 1:  The Legacy Rehoboam Inherited

Reflect and Apply

1. How do you handle expectations based on your past or family legacy?

2. What emotions do you notice in your heart when others ask you to change or adapt?

3. In what areas might pride be limiting your ability to lead or serve well?



Day 1:  The Legacy Rehoboam Inherited

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe a time when you inherited a difficult situation. How did you respond?

2. Write about a leader you admire who listens well. What qualities do they exhibit?

3. Reflect on a current decision where you need humility and wisdom.



Day 1: 📖 The Legacy Rehoboam Inherited

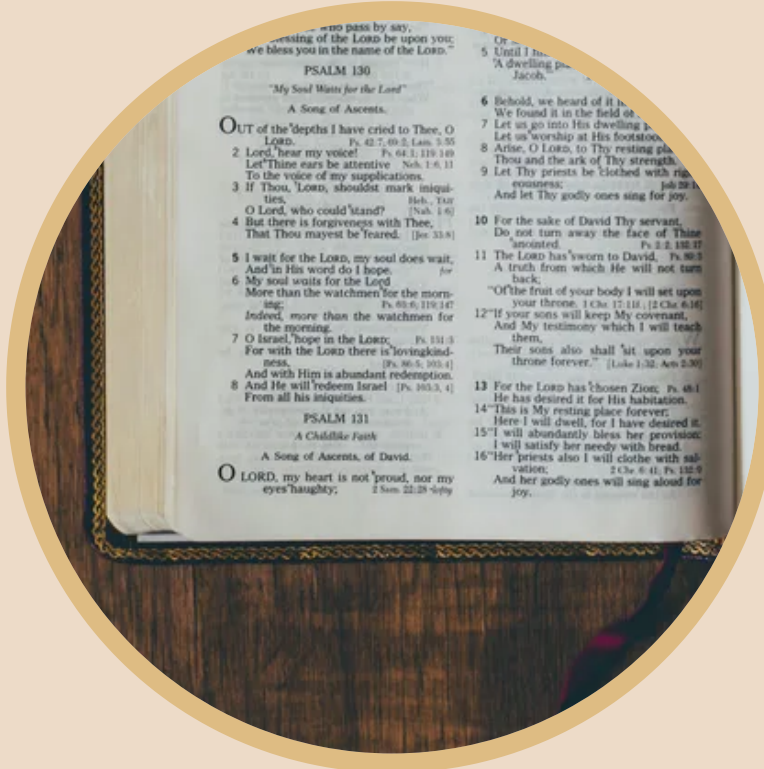
Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of Rehoboam's early reign and the lessons it offers. Please help me recognize where pride may cloud my judgment and where I need to lean on Your wisdom instead. Give me a humble heart to listen deeply to others and the courage to respond with grace and compassion. Teach me to lead well in every area of my life, reflecting Your love and justice. *May Your Spirit guide my decisions today and always.* Amen.





Day 2: 🔥 Rehoboam's Harsh Response



Day 2: 🔥 Rehoboam's Harsh Response

Your Verse

1 Kings 12:5-11 NIV - "Rehoboam asked them for three days to think it over. The young men he had grown up with... advised him to tell the people, 'My father made your yoke heavy, but I will make it even heavier.'"

Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 29:1 - "Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy."*
- *James 1:19 - "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."*



Day 2: 🔥 Rehoboam's Harsh Response

Devotional: Choosing Harshness Over Wisdom

Rehoboam's decision to follow harsh counsel is a sobering reminder of the power of peer influence and the danger of hard-heartedness. Rather than listening to the wise elders who had served his father, Rehoboam chose the advice of his peers, resulting in an exacerbated burden on the people.

This moment reveals the importance of discernment and humility. Leaders are tested in how they weigh counsel and control anger. *We all face pressures to conform or respond in defensiveness, but God's way is often the narrow path of listening, patience, and mercy.*

Rehoboam's harshness fractured the unity of Israel, showing how pride can lead to division. Today, consider how you receive advice or correction. Are you quick to respond with hardness, or do you pause and seek godly wisdom? This passage challenges us to choose humility over stubbornness and mercy over severity.



Day 2: 🔥 Rehoboam's Harsh Response

Reflect and Apply

1. Whose counsel do you usually follow when making difficult decisions?

2. Have you noticed times when pride caused you to respond harshly?

3. How can you cultivate a heart that is 'slow to become angry'?



Day 2: 🔥 Rehoboam's Harsh Response

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a moment you ignored wise advice. What happened?

2. Identify people you trust for godly counsel. How will you consult them more?

3. List ways you can practice patience in stressful situations.



Day 2: 🔥 Rehoboam's Harsh Response

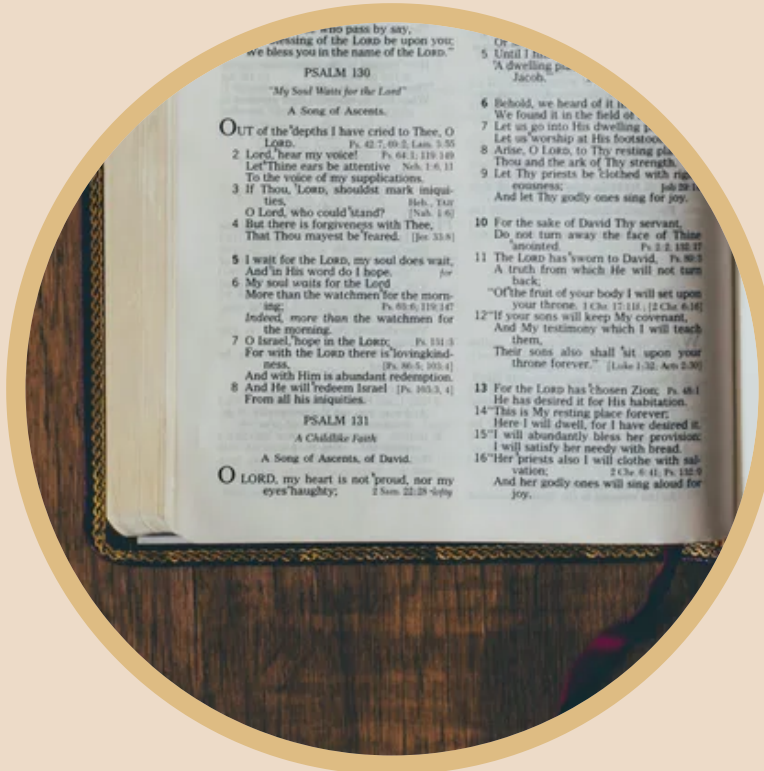
Prayer for Today

Lord, teach me to be slow to anger and quick to listen. When faced with pressure, help me choose Your wisdom over my impulses. Protect my heart from pride that hardens and divides. Fill me with Your Spirit so I can respond in love and humility. Thank You for Your patience with me. Empower me to be a peacemaker and servant-leader, reflecting Your grace in all I do. Amen.





Day 3: The Kingdom Divided



Day 3: ❤️ The Kingdom Divided

Your Verse

1 Kings 12:12-20 NIV - "When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen... they answered the king, 'What share do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse.' Then the ten northern tribes made Jeroboam king over Israel..."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalm 133:1 - "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"*
- *Isaiah 9:6-7 - "For to us a child is born... of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end."*



Day 3: ❤️ The Kingdom Divided

Devotional: The Cost of Division in God's People

The consequence of Rehoboam's refusal to listen was the tragic division of the kingdom. Ten tribes rejected the Davidic line and made Jeroboam their king. This split not only political but deeply spiritual and cultural hurt the people of Israel profoundly.

God desires His people to live in unity, as Psalm 133 beautifully describes the blessing of harmonious fellowship. Yet when pride and hardness prevail, division and conflict arise. *This passage is a painful example of how poor leadership can fracture communities and sever relationships.*

However, God's overarching plan still moves forward, culminating in the coming Messiah, who is the true King bringing eternal peace and uniting all peoples. This moment invites us to reflect on the consequences of division in our own lives — family, church, workplace — and seek paths toward reconciliation and unity.



Day 3: ❤️ The Kingdom Divided

Reflect and Apply

1. Where have you experienced division due to unyielding attitudes?

2. What does unity look like in your relationships and community?

3. How can you participate in healing division around you?



Day 3: ❤️ The Kingdom Divided

Journaling Prompts

1. Recall a conflict you regret. How might humility restore that relationship?

2. Write about what peace and unity mean personally to you.

3. List practical steps you can take toward reconciliation today.



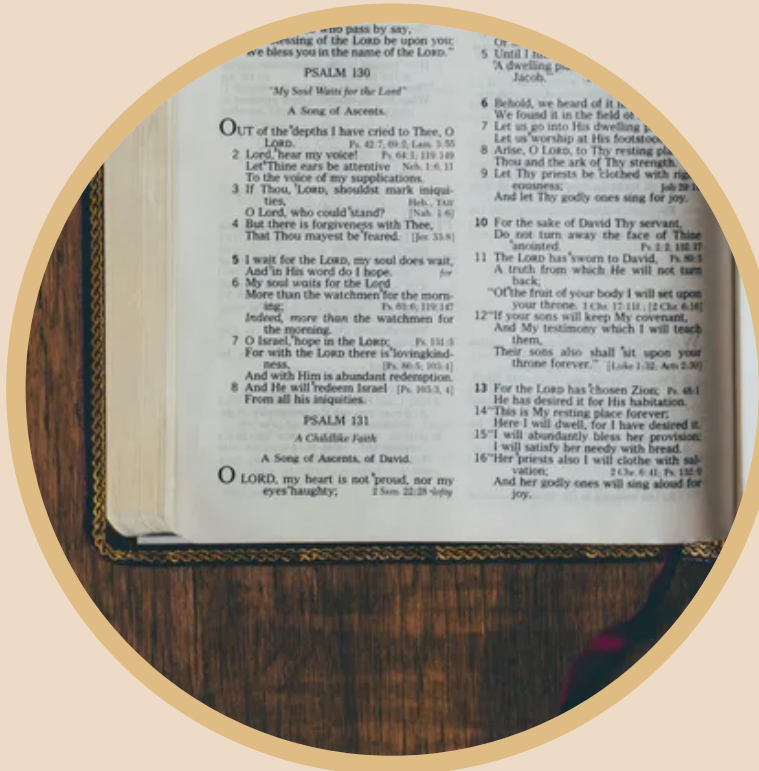
Day 3: ❤️ The Kingdom Divided

Prayer for Today

Father God, I lament the divisions that harm Your people. Help me to promote unity, peace, and understanding wherever I am. Soften my heart to be a bridge rather than a barrier. Thank You for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, whose kingdom will never be divided. May Your Spirit empower me to seek reconciliation and healing in my relationships and community. Amen. 🙏❤️



Day 4: 🙏 God's Sovereign Plan Despite Division



Day 4: 🙏 God's Sovereign Plan Despite Division

Your Verse

1 Kings 12:24 NIV - "For the Lord had said to Jeroboam, '...I will tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand...'"

Supporting Scriptures

- *Romans 8:28 - "In all things God works for the good of those who love him."*
- *Isaiah 55:8-9 - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.*



Day 4: 🙏 God's Sovereign Plan Despite Division

Devotional: God's Sovereignty Through Brokenness

Even though the kingdom was divided because of human failure, God's sovereignty remains unshaken. God had declared that the kingdom would be torn from Solomon's line because of disobedience, and He used this division to fulfill His greater purposes.

This truth offers hope when we see chaos or hardship in life. God's ways are higher than ours, and He works through our imperfect actions to accomplish His good plans. *We can trust that even painful outcomes are under His control and love.*

As you meditate today, surrender your own areas of brokenness and division to God. Invite Him to redeem, restore, and lead you in His perfect will. Remember that His sovereign purposes include working through our mistakes to build His kingdom.



Day 4: 🙏 God's Sovereign Plan Despite Division

Reflect and Apply

1. How do you respond to situations that feel out of control or painful?

2. What comfort does God's sovereignty bring you in times of division?

3. How can you align your will with God's higher purposes today?



Day 4: 🙏 God's Sovereign Plan Despite Division

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a past difficulty God used for good.

2. Express fears or frustrations you want to surrender to God.

3. Outline steps to trust God more fully in your current challenges.



Day 4: 🙏 God's Sovereign Plan Despite Division

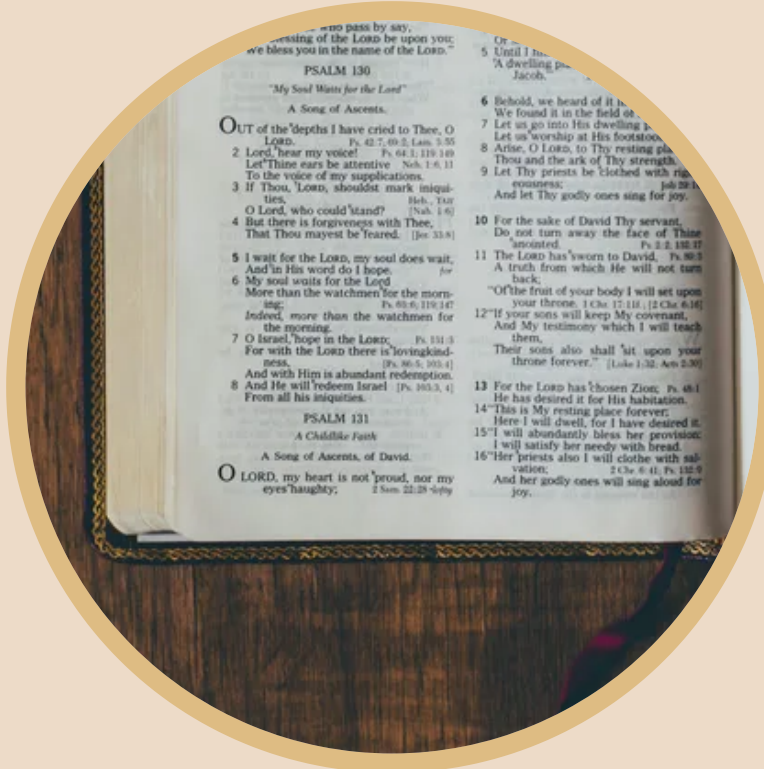
Prayer for Today

Lord, You are sovereign over all things, even when I don't understand Your ways. Help me to trust Your plan despite confusion or hardship. Teach me to surrender control and lean on Your wisdom and love. Thank You for working through brokenness to bring hope and restoration. Strengthen my faith to walk confidently with You each day. Amen. 🙏🕊️✨





Day 5: Wisdom to Lead with Humility



Day 5:  Wisdom to Lead with Humility

Your Verse

Proverbs 11:2 NIV - "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Micah 6:8 - "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*
- *James 4:6 - "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."*



Day 5:  Wisdom to Lead with Humility

Devotional: Cultivating Humility for Wise Leadership

Rehoboam's failure was largely a failure of humility. The Bible consistently teaches that humility precedes wisdom. Pride blocks our ability to lead well and harms relationships, but humility opens the door to God's guidance and grace.

True leadership, according to Scripture, is rooted in justice, mercy, and humility. When we walk humbly with God, we can love others better and make wise decisions, avoiding the pitfalls that shattered Israel under Rehoboam.

Reflect on your own heart today: where might pride be clouding your judgment? Ask God to cultivate humility and grant you wisdom. Remember, God favors the humble and gives them strength to lead as He desires.



Day 5:  Wisdom to Lead with Humility


Reflect and Apply

1. In what ways does pride affect your decision-making?

2. How do you express humility in your daily life?

3. What are practical ways to seek God's wisdom continuously?



Day 5:  Wisdom to Lead with Humility

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time humility changed your perspective.

2. List attitudes or behaviors you want God to transform in you.

3. Describe a leader you respect for their humility and why.



Day 5: 🛡️ Wisdom to Lead with Humility

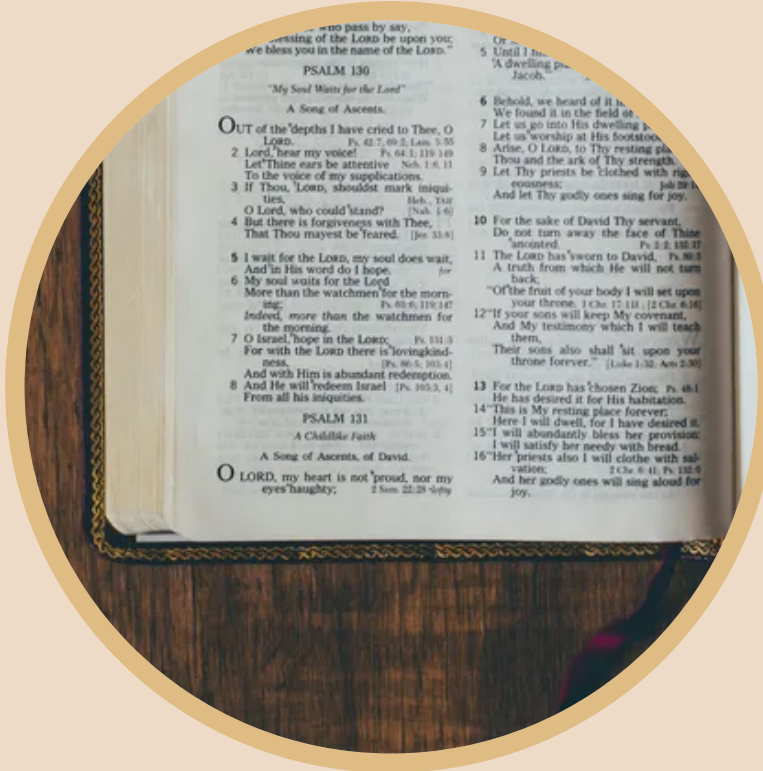
Prayer for Today

God of Wisdom, I confess that pride often interferes with my ability to lead and love well. Please create in me a humble heart that depends fully on You. Teach me to seek Your guidance first and to lead with justice and mercy. Thank You for Your favor upon the humble. Help me to follow Your pattern of wisdom each day. Amen. 🙏🌿📖





Day 6: Restoring Unity and Peace



Day 6: 🌿 Restoring Unity and Peace

Your Verse

2 Chronicles 30:1 NIV – "Hezekiah sent out letters to all Israel and Judah, inviting them to come to the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem... to celebrate the Passover..."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Ephesians 4:3 – "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*
- *Colossians 3:13-14 – "Bear with each other and forgive one another... And over all these virtues put on love."*



Day 6: 🌿 Restoring Unity and Peace

Devotional: God's Call to Reconciliation and Unity

Though the division in Israel was severe, there were efforts by later kings like **Hezekiah to restore unity through spiritual renewal**. Calling the people back to God by celebrating the Passover together was a step toward healing broken relationships and reminding God's people of their shared identity and faith.

This shows us God's heart for reconciliation and wholeness. Wherever division exists, God invites us to be agents of peace and restoration, rooted in love and forgiveness.

Consider today how you can promote unity in your sphere of influence, be it family, church, work, or friendships. Carry the burden of healing with prayer and action, trusting God to mend what is broken.



Day 6: 🌿 Restoring Unity and Peace

Reflect and Apply

1. Where in your life is unity lacking and needs restoration?

2. How can spiritual practices bring healing in divided relationships?

3. What role do forgiveness and love play in promoting peace?



Day 6: 🌿 Restoring Unity and Peace

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about someone you need to forgive or seek forgiveness from.

2. List ways you can actively pursue peace in your relationships.

3. Reflect on spiritual habits that help you grow in unity with others.



Day 6: 🌿 Restoring Unity and Peace

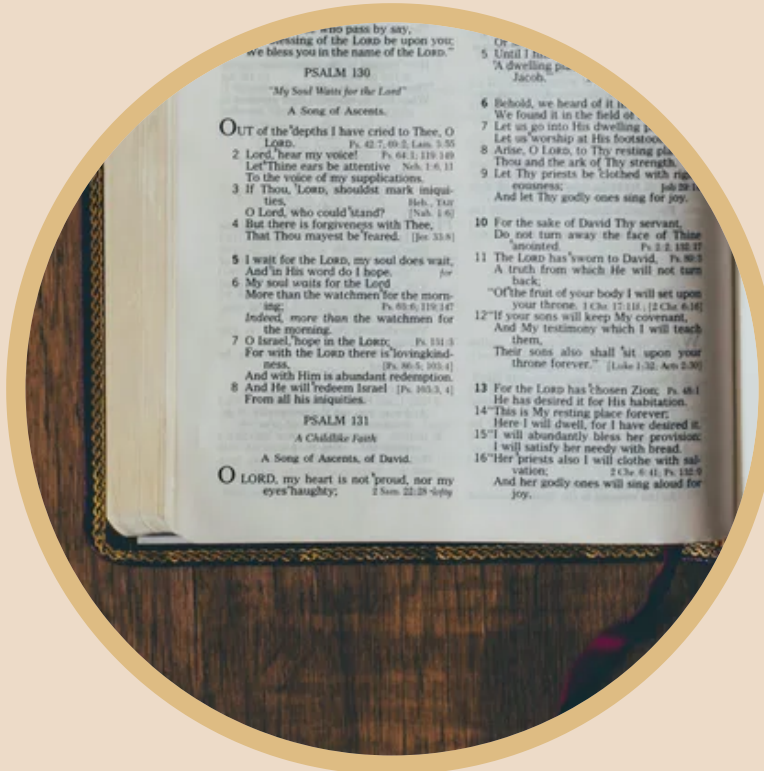
Prayer for Today

Gracious Father, Thank You for Your desire that we live in unity and peace. Help me to be a peacemaker and a healer in my relationships. Teach me to forgive and to love as You do. Restore broken bonds and let Your Spirit bring true reconciliation. May I reflect Your peace in all I say and do. Amen. 🙏❤️





Day 7: ✨ Hope in the Messiah, True King



Day 7: ✨ Hope in the Messiah, True King

Your Verse

Isaiah 11:1-5 NIV - "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit... He will delight in the fear of the Lord...Righteousness will be his belt..."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Luke 1:32-33 - "He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end."*
- *John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."*



Day 7: ✨ Hope in the Messiah, True King

Devotional: Jesus: The King Who Unites and Restores

The division of Israel under Rehoboam was part of a painful history, but God promises a coming King—the Messiah—who will establish perfect peace and justice. Isaiah's prophecy points to Jesus, who fulfills God's promise to bring restoration and unity to His people forever.

Unlike earthly kings who fail, Jesus reigns with wisdom, righteousness, and mercy. His kingdom offers hope beyond division, pride, and hardship. This final day invites you to place your hope and trust in the true King whose reign is eternal.

Reflect on Jesus as the perfect leader—one who listens, serves humbly, and unites His people in love and peace. Let Him guide your heart to reflect His kingdom values daily as you walk forward with hope and faith.



Day 7: ✨ Hope in the Messiah, True King

Reflect and Apply

1. How does Jesus' leadership differ from Rehoboam's?

2. What hope can you find in Jesus' promise of peace and unity?

3. How can you embody the character of Christ in your leadership?



Day 7: ✨ Hope in the Messiah, True King

Journaling Prompts

1. Write your thoughts and feelings about Jesus as your King.

2. List ways you can practice servant leadership like Jesus.

3. Reflect on how Christ's peace impacts your daily life.



Day 7: ✨ Hope in the Messiah, True King

Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, You are the King who reigns with wisdom, love, and justice. Thank You for Your perfect example of servant leadership and Your promise to bring peace to our hearts and communities. Help me to follow You faithfully and be an instrument of Your unity and restoration. Fill me with Your Spirit and guide my steps today and always. Amen. 🙏👑❤️✨





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