

Historic Example of Big Gov't Implosion

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There are so many important lessons recorded in God's word, the Bible, which are meant to benefit future generations. More often than not these are ignored, or misapplied, and negative consequences follow. This is certainly the case with governments that insist on creating as many taxpayer funded "programs" as possible, without concern for the consequences that history confirms will occur.

*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and **they were written for our admonition** (instruction), **on whom the ends of the ages have come** (1Cor. 10:11; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning.... (Rom. 15:4a; emphasis added).

One of these important lessons was recorded to dissuade people from creating "Big Government" because it inevitably leads to a country's breakdown. We will look at God's warning first, and then the consequences that followed decades later.

In this account, an ancient family was "called out" of this world's polytheistic systems of worship to become a powerful nation that would eventually teach God's truth to all the pagan nations around them. Sadly, they not only failed to fulfill this commission, but they also fell apart completely due to their obsession with building a burgeoning system of governance that God told them to avoid. Central to this "big government" was replacing God's authority with that of a human leader who would then create more and more

"programs". As we will see, this propensity led to the division and eventual destruction of the entire nation.

*Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make for us a king to judge us like all the nations." ⁶But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the Lord. ⁷And the Lord said to Samuel, "**Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them**" (1Sam. 8:4-7; emphasis added).*

If God were a megalomaniac, as some claim, He would not have given up His authority and allowed a human leader to take charge of the nation. Also, while stepping back, He expressed concern for their future based on the course they were heading. And, out of love for the people He warned them that human government is fundamentally self-serving, and would add many burdens to their lives. Eventually, this government would become so big and intrusive that the majority of the population would become "tenant farmers"; owning nothing and any power or control they had previously, would be taken away by their leaders.

*Now therefore, heed their voice. **However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king** (or any other form of human governance) **who will reign over them.**" ¹⁰So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who asked him for a king. ¹¹And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots (conscription). ¹²He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will*

set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots (build a burgeoning military industry). ¹³*He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers.* ¹⁴*And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves* (compulsory property acquisition by government), *and give them to his servants* (bureaucrats). ¹⁵*He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants* (increase taxes to pay for more bureaucrats). ¹⁶*And he will take your menservants and your maidservants and your finest young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work* (average citizens will sell more and more of their assets to pay increased taxes and inflationary costs). ¹⁷*He will take a tenth* (another tax) *of your sheep. And you will be his servants* ("tenant farmers"). ¹⁸***And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day*** (1Sam. 8:9-18; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

To this day, God has allowed mankind to create every form of government possible without interference from Him. This way, the consequences of rejecting His leadership/governance can be experienced firsthand. He will not intervene until human leaders have brought this entire planet to the point of imploding. Jesus Christ described this scenario in the context of "when" the end of all forms of human government will occur, and based on movements in the United States of America like "defund the police" and "eliminate qualified immunity for police" we are very close now, unless this trend is reversed quickly.

And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold (Mt. 24:12; emphasis added).

Continuing the chronological flow of events, following God's warning in 1 Samuel 8:9-18, the first king of Israel, Saul, engaged in multiple wars that continued through the reign of King David and drained the country's resources.

But the word of the Lord came to me (David), saying, "You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight (1Chron. 22:8; cf. 28:3; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

However, by the time that King Solomon began to reign, the country enjoyed a brief renaissance and renewed prosperity, but that proved to be short-lived after his son King Rehoboam took power. At this point in time "all the pigeons came home to roost." Specifically, Rehoboam not only continued the failed policies of his predecessors, but he also made them even worse. As the following section of scripture confirms, Rehoboam's ego, incompetence, and stupidity split the nation permanently. In fact, as we will see shortly, the damage was so severe that the reunion of the original nation of Israel will not occur until the return of Jesus Christ.

Now Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king. ²*So it was, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it (he was still in Egypt, for he had fled from the presence of King Solomon and had been dwelling in Egypt).* ³*that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole congregation of Israel (twelve families descended from Jacob) came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,* ⁴*"Your father made our yoke heavy (with taxes and regulations); now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."* ⁵*So he said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed* (1Kgs. 12:1-5; Ed. note in parenthesis).

At this point, if Rehoboam had acted on the suggestions he received from his father's advisors, the twelve families, known by the name Israel, would have willingly served him. But as we will see, this is not what happened. Instead, he followed the advice of inexperienced and impudent young men.

*Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise me to answer these people?" ⁷And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."⁸**But he rejected the counsel which the elders gave him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him**, who stood before him. ⁹And he said to them, "What counsel do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us?'"¹⁰Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us' - thus you shall say to them: 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist! ¹¹And now, whereas my father laid a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!'" (1Kgs. 12:6-11; emphasis added).*

There are many similar examples throughout man's history and in every situation the people eventually reacted, one way or another. In the United States of America, as soon as a new administration took office in 2021, thousands of workers in the oil industry lost their jobs because the government shut down the Keystone XL pipeline. Not only that, ancillary suppliers to the oil industry also suffered. To add insult to injury, the developer of this pipeline, TC Energy, is seeking damages of \$ 15B from the current

administration for canceling the contract. If successful, American citizens will have to pay this \$ 15B from their hard-earned taxes.

To make matters even worse, consumers are now paying about a dollar more per gallon for gasoline, which is a seven year high. The majority of these people will not receive wage increases to offset these higher energy costs. So this is just another tax on the poor because wealthy people can absorb these increases. In an ongoing attack on small businesses, many states restricted small business owners from operating and some had to shut down forever. These draconian measures were disguised as "science" related to COVID-19; even though much of this "so-called science" has now been proven completely erroneous. However, during this same period of time, Big Box stores continued doing business as usual. So the rich were able to become richer, while government made it harder for small businesses to succeed.

Next, the government printed trillions of dollars, much of which has been distributed for programs that do not create more jobs or increase the nation's productivity. Instead, this only makes the economy weaker by increasing the national debt that cannot be paid back within a reasonable amount of time, if at all. Currently, Americans pay \$1.1B of their tax dollars every day just to cover the interest on this debt. This is unsustainable, and yet the government is pushing to borrow even more money for their many "programs". With \$1Trillion of this debt owned by China, common sense would dictate that the United States of America is severely compromised. Any country that operates in this manner will become "the tail and not the head", as God warned ancient Israel. Sadly, America's current leadership will ignore this advice, and their fellow countrymen will suffer the consequences.

The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. ⁴⁴**He shall lend to you, but you shall not** (be able to) **lend to him: he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail** (Dt. 28:43-44; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Therefore, printing more money and creating more government-run programs “enslaves” future generations and fuels inflation, which is another tax on the poor. These and many other measures reflect a leadership that is ill-advised and reckless; just as it was during the time of King Rehoboam.

As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths (Isa. 3:12; emphasis added).

Because of Rehoboam’s words and actions, the nation of Israel split apart. In this weakened condition, they were eventually defeated by their enemies and scattered abroad.

Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What portion have we in David (house of Judah – or the Jews)? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!" So Israel departed to their tents. ¹⁷**But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah (Jews; Levites; and Benjaminites)** (1Kgs. 12:16-17; Ed. notes in parentheses).

So Israel (primarily the families of Issachar, Zebulun, Reuben, Simeon, Gad, Ephraim, Manasseh, Dan, Asher, and Naphtali) **has been in rebellion against the house of David** (Judah (Jews), Benjamin, and Levi) **to this day** (1Kgs. 12:19; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

And when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah with the tribe of Benjamin, one hundred and eighty chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon (1Kgs. 12:21; emphasis added).

Following the split of this nation, ten of the families made the city of Samaria their capital, while the remaining three made Jerusalem their headquarters. Later, the ten families living in and around Samaria were taken captive by the Assyrians, while the three families living in and around Jerusalem were taken captive by the Babylonians.

In our modern world, a scenario like this seems unfathomable for a powerful nation like America, but when Big Government continues to place burdens upon its own people, anything can happen. In the United States of America today, individual states are already enacting new laws to deal with the reckless policies being created by the Federal Government in Washington DC. If this trend continues, there will no longer be “one nation under God”. Instead, there will be at least two nations within one country. At this point, outside enemies will take advantage of the situation, as they did following the reckless words and actions of Rehoboam. If/when this occurs, Americans will look back at what they did, but it will be too late to change anything because their “once united country” will no longer exist.

To put another “nail in the coffin”, while continuing to ignore the lessons of history, the current administration in America is planning to hire more bureaucrats to squeeze as much money out its citizens as possible. The following excerpt is from an article in Politico published on May 20, 2021, entitled: “Biden Proposes Doubling IRS Workforce As Part Of Plan To Snag Tax Cheats”,

*President Joe Biden is proposing to double the size of the IRS, by hiring nearly 87,000 new workers over the next decade, as part of a sweeping plan to chase down tax cheats. The hiring spree, is part of a bid to increase IRS funding by \$80 billion...at the same time, **the administration wants to require financial institutions and other businesses to report a lot more information about the money going through their customers' accounts** – a proposal designed to put the fear of the IRS in the hearts of taxpayers* (Emphasis added).

So how did a similar action by King Rehoboam play out for him?

*Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the revenue (tax collection); but all Israel (ten families located in Samaria) stoned him with stones, and he died. **Therefore King Rehoboam mounted his chariot in haste to flee to Jerusalem** (1Kgs. 12:18; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Not only do foolish politicians not learn from the historic examples of other countries and civilizations, but they also seem to ignore the history of their own country. In the case of the United States of America, one of the key factors that triggered independence from Great Britain was the fact that America was not granted representation in the British parliament and yet they paid taxes to Britain. Hence the phrase, "no taxation without representation". So there was a revolt in response to this inequity and it is referred to as "The Boston Tea Party" that occurred on December 16, 1773. During this "protest" 342 chests of tea, imported by the British East India Company, were dumped into the harbor at Griffin's Wharf in Boston.

Today, at a critical time in America's history, about half the country feels its voice is not being heard at the Federal level. Therefore, expecting

these citizens to pay taxes to support programs they disagree with, is a recipe for disaster. Unless "cooler heads prevail", the historic example of King Rehoboam could play out right before our eyes, with the same outcome. Hopefully, this will not happen. However, if we do not learn from history's mistakes, we are bound to repeat them, and in America there are many who want to erase the history of their own country. Therefore they will not, and cannot, learn from it. This is one of the reasons that Almighty God compares them to "foolish children"; just as the people of ancient Israel were.

For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are silly children, and **they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge** (Jer. 4:22; emphasis added).

So the phrase "God Save America" never meant more than it does right now, but there is another saying that needs to be taken into consideration, and that is: "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves". Specifically, the American people need to wake up and realize the course they are heading and make the necessary changes very quickly. If they continue to put their head in the sand, by the time they "surface" the country they once knew will be gone forever.

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