

I. SOLOMON'S DIRECT REQUEST (30:5–10) – A FATHER'S FINAL APPEAL TO TORAH

A. 30:5–6 – THE BASIS: TORAH

- **God's Word is flawless and final**
 - *"Every word of God is pure."* (30:5)
 - Solomon begins not with policies but with theology. Torah is the only shield that will hold in the day of judgment.
 - No human strategy or royal wisdom can replace what God has already spoken.
- **Warning against tampering with revelation**
 - *"Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."* (30:6)
 - This is not decorative language. It is covenantal command (cf. Deut. 4:2; 13:1).
 - Rashi captures it: additions to God's Word will expose the speaker as false.
 - Rehoboam is warned not to elevate his voice above Torah.

B. 30:7–10 – SOLOMON'S TWO REQUESTS TO REHOBOAM

1. 30:7 – THE SETUP: TWO SIMPLE REQUESTS

- *"Two things have I required of thee."*
 - Not a list of legislation, but a distilled prophetic plea.
 - If Rehoboam fails here, the rest will collapse no matter what he builds.

2. 30:8–9 – REQUEST ONE: LIVE IN BALANCE, NOT EXTREMES

- *"Remove far from me vanity and lies... give me neither poverty nor riches..."*
 - Vanity and lies were the soundtrack of Solomon's late reign; he begs his son to live without them.
 - The king must choose sufficiency over excess.
 - Extremes (wealth or lack) drive people to deny or dishonor God.
 - This is not life advice. It is a prophecy of what Rehoboam's unbalanced reign will become.

3. 30:10 – REQUEST TWO: STOP UNDERMINING THE COURT

- *"Accuse not a servant unto his master..."*
 - Solomon sees what Rehoboam is already doing—turning on his father's advisors.
 - The stewards who upheld the kingdom are now being treated like threats.
 - The fallout won't be against them—it will be against the accuser.
 - Proudful speech is political sabotage, and Rehoboam is already stirring it.

II. THE HIDDEN FOOL AND THE NUMBERED WORLD (30:11–31) – FROM CHARACTER WARNINGS TO PROPHETIC PATTERN

A. INTRODUCTION: THE SHIFT TO PROPHETIC LISTS

- Solomon moves from direct speech to illustrative prophecy.
- The structure shifts to "three... four" patterns, but the message sharpens.
- These are not poetic extras—they are diagnostic snapshots of what will unfold.
- The number **four** signifies earthbound completeness. When detached from heaven, it becomes unredeemed, unrestrained, and ultimately, unlivable.

B. 30:11–14 – NUMERICAL SAYING #1: FOUR KINDS OF DESTRUCTIVE PEOPLE

- *“There is a generation...”* (30:11–14)
 - Four marks: rebellion, delusion, arrogance, and cruelty.
 - Solomon is describing Rehoboam’s advisors—the ones who will replace the elders (cf. 1 Kings 12:6–14).
 - These are not rare flaws. They are the operating system of a generation that no longer fears God.

C. 30:15–17 – NUMERICAL SAYING #2: FOUR INSATIABLES

- *“The horseleach hath two daughters...”*
 - The voice of appetite: Give, give.
 - The grave, the barren womb, the thirsty earth, and fire never say “enough.”
 - Rehoboam’s policies of extraction and control reflect this spirit.
 - Verse 17 transitions back to prideful eyes—mocking parental wisdom, inviting the birds of judgment.

D. 30:18–20 – NUMERICAL SAYING #3: THE PATH THAT CANNOT BE TRACED

- *“There be three things which are too wonderful...”*
 - Four subtle, untraceable paths: eagle, serpent, ship, and desire.
 - These are used to illustrate the way of the adulterous woman.
 - She is not merely immoral—she is the personification of subtle covenantal betrayal.
 - Rehoboam’s court will be filled with this voice: smooth, seductive, spiritually unmoored.

E. 30:21–23 – NUMERICAL SAYING #4: THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

- *“For three things the earth is disquieted...”*
 - Four social inversions: servant reigning, fool feasting, unloved woman married, handmaid displacing her mistress.
 - These do not simply destabilize families—they collapse nations.
 - Rehoboam will elevate the unprepared, reward the loud, and rearrange what God established.

F. 30:24–28 – NUMERICAL SAYING #5: FOUR SMALL BUT WISE CREATURES

- *“There be four things which are little... but exceeding wise.”*
 - Ant, coney, locust, spider—each is weak, yet each survives.
 - They work with foresight, refuge, unity, and persistence.
 - Rehoboam will reject these lessons. He will honor power over prudence.

G. 30:29–31 – NUMERICAL SAYING #6: FOUR STATELY BEINGS

- *“There be three things which go well...”*
 - Lion, greyhound, he-goat, and the unchallenged king.
 - This is the image of royal stability. Measured strength. Dignified rule.
 - Solomon paints what Rehoboam could have become. He will instead become the king everyone challenges.

III. THE PROPHETIC LAST WORD (30:32–33) – THE FINAL REBUKE

A. 30:32 – SILENCE THE PRIDE

- *“If thou hast done foolishly... lay thine hand upon thy mouth.”*
 - Solomon calls for a last moment of restraint.
 - It is not too late to be quiet. But it will be soon.

B. 30:33 – THE INEVITABLE OUTCOME

- *“The churning of milk bringeth forth butter...”*
 - Stir something long enough, and it will change form.
 - Rehoboam will stir pride into policy. He will churn tension into division.
 - The kingdom will break, not by attack, but by the pressure he refuses to release.