

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 20

2 SAMUEL 20:1-2 - SHEBA'S REBELLION

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO BE KING OVER ALL OF ISRAEL AGAIN...CAPITALIZING ON THE TENSION AMONGST THE TRIBES (2 SAMUEL 19:9, 43), SHEBA, FROM THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN (SAUL'S TRIBE) CALLS FOR ANOTHER REBELLION AGAINST DAVID AS KING.

2 SAMUEL 20:3 - DAVID REUNITED WITH THE 10 CONCUBINES

V. 3 - THESE WERE THE WOMEN WHOM DAVID HAD LEFT WHEN HE FLED JERUSALEM TO KEEP WATCH OVER THE HOUSE. BUT SADLY THEY WERE ALSO THE WOMEN WHOM ABSALOM VIOLATED (CP 16:22). DAVID CARED FOR THEM AND LET THEM LIVE OUT THE REST OF THEIR DAYS CARED FOR.

2 SAMUEL 20:4-7 - DAVID MAKES MOVES TO STOP AMASA

V. 4-5 - DAVID COMMISSIONS AMASA TO GATHER TOGETHER THE MEN OF JUDAH TO FIGHT AGAINST SHEBA.

V. 6 - DAVID COMMISSIONS ABISHAI TO CHASE AFTER SHEBA. HE LEADS THE ELITE FORCE KNOWN AS THE MIGHTY MEN.

NOTICE THAT DAVID DOES NOT LOOK TO JOAB IN THIS IMPORTANT MOMENT.

2 SAMUEL 20:8-13 - JOAB KILLS AMASA

PREVIOUSLY AMASA WAS APPOINTED GENERAL OF ABSALOM'S ARMY (2 SAM. 17:25). WHEN ABSALOM DIED, IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNIFY THE NATIONS, DAVID APPOINTED AMASA AS HIS NEW GENERAL, ELEVATING HIM OVER JOAB. THIS WAS A GOOD POLITICAL MOVE ON DAVID'S PART, BUT ALSO AN APPARENT PUNISHMENT OF JOAB FOR NOT FOLLOWING HIS ORDER ABOUT KEEPING ABSALOM ALIVE. AND NOW, WITH A NEW CONFLICT ARISING WITH SHEBA, DAVID LOOKS TO AMASA AND ABISHAI AND NOT JOAB. AMASA WAS JOAB'S COUSIN (2 SAM. 19:13).

V. 10 - JOAB MURDERS AMASA THROUGH DECEIT, MOTIVATED BY PRIDE AND DISTRUST.

JOAB HAD COMMITTED A SIMILAR ACT EARLIER TO ABNER, THE GENERAL OF SAUL'S ARMY, WHO WAS AGREEING TO TERMS OF PEACE AND UNIFICATION WITH DAVID. ABNER HAD RELUCTANTLY KILLED JOAB & ABISHAI'S BROTHER, ASAHIEL.

2 SAMUEL 3:27 - SO WHEN ABNER RETURNED TO HEBRON, JOAB TOOK HIM ASIDE INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE GATE TO SPEAK WITH HIM PRIVATELY, AND THERE HE STRUCK HIM IN THE BELLY SO THAT HE DIED ON ACCOUNT OF THE BLOOD OF ASAHIEL HIS BROTHER.

V. 11-13 - JOAB'S SERVANT CALLS AMASA'S TROOPS TO FOLLOW JOAB.

2 SAMUEL 20:11-13 (NLT) - ONE OF JOAB'S YOUNG MEN SHOUTED TO AMASA'S TROOPS, "IF YOU ARE FOR JOAB AND DAVID, COME AND FOLLOW JOAB." 12 BUT AMASA LAY IN HIS BLOOD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, AND JOAB'S MAN SAW THAT EVERYONE WAS STOPPING TO STARE AT HIM. SO HE PULLED HIM OFF THE ROAD INTO A FIELD AND THREW A CLOAK OVER HIM. 13 WITH AMASA'S BODY OUT OF THE WAY, EVERYONE WENT ON WITH JOAB TO CAPTURE SHEBA SON OF BICRI.

2 SAMUEL 20:14-15 - JOAB'S MEN SURROUND SHEBA, WHO IS HELD UP IN CITY OF ABEL BETH MAACAH

V. 15 - JOAB'S MEN BUILD A RAMP OR MOUND OF EARTH TO GET TO THE TOP OF THE WALL AROUND THE CITY ABEL BETH-MAACAH. THEY THEN USED A BATTERING RAM TO DESTROY THE WALL.

"THE FUTURE IS BEGINNING TO LOOK BLEAK FOR SHEBA. HE 'PASSED THROUGH ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL TO ABEL OF BETH-MAACAH; AND ALL THE BICHRIITES ASSEMBLED, AND FOLLOWED HIM INSIDE (V. 14, NRSV).' ABEL BETH-MAACAH WAS IN THE FAR NORTH OF ISRAEL, ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE MILES NORTH OF THE SEA OF GALILEE AND SEVERAL MILES WEST OF DAN. THE FACT THAT SHEBA HAD GONE SO FAR NORTH SHOWS HE HAD GATHERED LITTLE SUPPORT FOR HIMSELF OR HIS SECESSION MOVEMENT." ("FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 2 SAMUEL" BY DALE RALPH DAVIS, PG 256)



2 SAMUEL 20:16-22 - WISE WOMAN OF ABEL & SHEBA'S DEMISE

AS THE SOLDIERS WORK TO DEMOLISH THE WALL AND FORTIFICATIONS OF THE CITY, A PROMINENT WOMAN CALLS JOAB FROM THE CITY. SHE DOES NOT WANT HER CITY DEMOLISHED OR IT'S CITIZENS PUNISHED FOR SHEBA'S SINS. SHE HAS PRIDE FOR HER CITY AND REFERENCES ABEL'S HISTORICAL REPUTATION:

2 SAMUEL 20:18-19 (NLT) - THEN SHE CONTINUED, "THERE USED TO BE A SAYING, 'IF YOU WANT TO SETTLE AN ARGUMENT, ASK ADVICE AT THE TOWN OF ABEL.' 19 I AM ONE WHO IS PEACE LOVING AND FAITHFUL IN ISRAEL. BUT YOU ARE DESTROYING AN IMPORTANT TOWN IN ISRAEL. WHY DO YOU WANT TO DEVOUR WHAT BELONGS TO THE LORD?"

SHE THEN REASONS WITH JOAB BY OFFERING TO TAKE CARE OF HIS PROBLEM (SHEBA) IF HE WILL STOP CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR HER AND HER CITY. JOAB AGREES TO HALT THE RAMMING AND LEAVE IF SHE WILL HAND OVER SHEBA. AFTER ALL, HE SOMEWHAT IRONICALLY REPLIES TO HER "FAR BE IT FROM ME THAT I SHOULD SWALLOW UP OR DESTROY" (V. 20).

SHE RESPONDS BY MARSHALLING THE RESIDENTS OF ABEL AND KILLING SHEBA. JOAB IN TURN RETURNS TO JERUSALEM. AND WITH THAT, SHEBA'S REBELLION IS CUT OFF (PUN INTENDED).

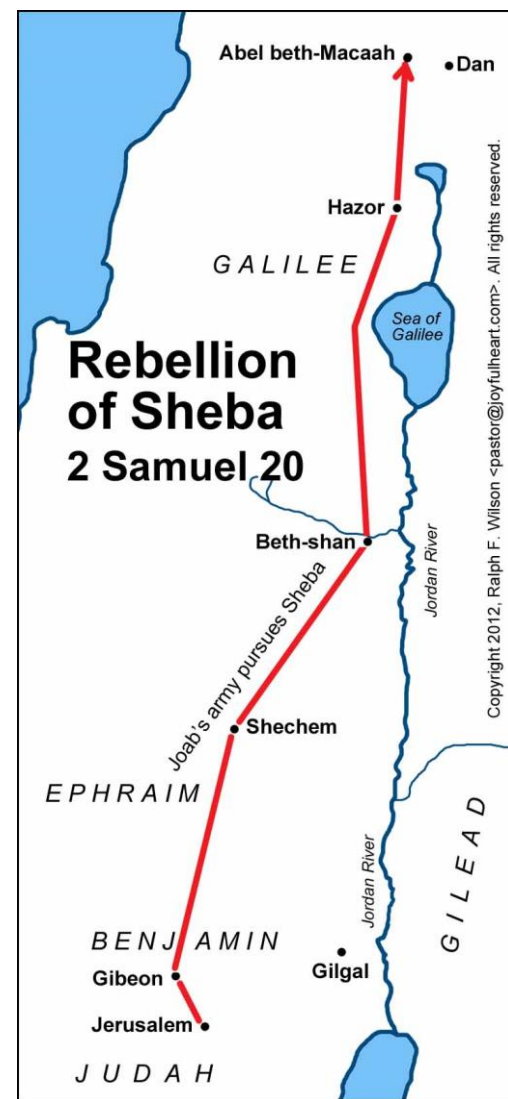
ECCLESIASTES 9:13-16A - ALSO THIS I CAME TO SEE AS WISDOM UNDER THE SUN, AND IT IMPRESSED ME. 14 THERE WAS A SMALL CITY WITH FEW MEN IN IT AND A GREAT KING CAME TO IT, SURROUNDED IT AND CONSTRUCTED LARGE SIEGEWORKS AGAINST IT. 15 BUT THERE WAS FOUND IN IT A POOR WISE MAN AND HE DELIVERED THE CITY BY HIS WISDOM....16 SO I SAID, "WISDOM IS BETTER THAN STRENGTH.

2 SAMUEL 20:23-26 - UPDATE ON DAVID'S CABINET

GENERAL OF ARMY — JOAB

LEADER OF SPECIAL FORCES (CHERETHITES AND PELETHITES) - BENAIAH THE SON OF JEHOIADA

OVERSEE FORCES LABOR - ADORAM



RECORDER - JEHOSHAPHAT

SCRIBE - SHEVA

LEADING PRIESTS - ZADOK & ABIATHAR

ADDITIONAL PRIEST (POSSIBLY PERSONAL CHAPLAIN TO DAVID) - IRA THE JAIRITE

WE BEGAN THE CHAPTER WITH YET ANOTHER REBELLION, OR THREAT TO THE KINGDOM OF DAVID. HIS SON REBELS, THE PEOPLE LEAVE DAVID, HIS SON DIES, THE PEOPLE WANT DAVID BACK AS KING. AND AS SOON AS THINGS SEEM TO RETURN TO "NORMAL" ANOTHER REBELLION BEGINS. THIS REBELLION IS DEALT WITH RATHER QUICKLY, BUT NOT WITHOUT THE NON-COMBAT RELATED MURDER OF AMASA IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. SHEBA IS STOPPED, AND THE CHAPTER ENDS WITH DAVID'S KINGDOM IN TACT, WITH OFFICIALS MANNING THEIR POSTS. WHAT AWAITS US IN THE NEXT CHAPTER IS NEW EVENTS, CONFLICTS, DECISIONS, AND RELATIONSHIPS. THINGS NEVER REALLY GET TO THE POINT WHERE DAVID CAN TAKE A DAY "OFF" OR LET HIS GUARD DOWN. AND IN REALITY, EVEN DURING DAVID'S EARLY DAYS OF GLORY AND PEACE, DAVID EASING UP AND LETTING HIS GUARD DOWN LED TO THE SIN WITH BATHSHEBA.

SO IT IS WITH A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE. WE MUST REMAIN ON GUARD AGAINST THE ATTACKS OF OUR ENEMIES - SATAN, SIN AND THE EVIL'S OF THIS AGE. OFTEN TIMES IT IS WHEN WE LET UP, LOSE OUR PASSION OR FAITHFULNESS DECLINES, WE ARE RIPE FOR OUR ADVERSARY. SOMETIMES THE REBELLION IS WITHIN (LIKE WITH DAVID & BATHSHEBA), WHERE OUR OWN WEAKNESSES LEAD US TO SIN OR UNHOLY LIVING. SOMETIMES WE ARE BLINDSIDED FROM WITHIN OUR OWN FAMILY (LIKE ABSALOM) - LITERAL FAMILY AND SPIRITUAL FAMILY OF THE CHURCH. OTHER TIMES IT IS AN ATTACK FROM AN OUTSIDER (LIKE SHEBA). WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT. WE MUST NOT LET UP. WHILE WE NEED TIMES OF REFRESHMENT, REST AND PEACE - THOSE THINGS ARE VERY DIFFERENT THAN LETTING OUR GUARD DOWN.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:6 (ESV) - SO THEN LET US NOT SLEEP, AS OTHERS DO, BUT LET US KEEP AWAKE AND BE SOBER.

1 PETER 5:8 - BE OF SOBER SPIRIT, BE ON THE ALERT. YOUR ADVERSARY, THE DEVIL, PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION, SEEKING SOMEONE TO DEVOUR.