

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 2 Samuel Chapters 19-20 12/1-2/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC STANDARD Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

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Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC STANDARD Time (US and Canada).

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), **AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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One tap mobile; +16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,85309150746# US (Houston); +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>
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OPENING PRAYER

2 SAMUEL – Chapter 19 – David’s Mourning for Absalom – (vs. 1-8); David Returns to Jerusalem – (vs. 9-18); David’s Mercy to Shimei – (vs. 19-23); David and Mephibosheth Meet – (vs. 24-30); David’s Kindness to Barzillai – (vs. 31-39); The Quarrel About the King – (vs. 40-43). Chapter 20 –

Review: 2Sa 18:33 *Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: "O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!"*

Joab Rebukes David

2Sa 19:1 *And Joab was told, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom."*

- **David is in a very difficult situation.** He is king and he is a father. He has to function in both realms. The pain that he feels is not the pain of a king, it is the pain of a father. But God has called him to the position of king

2Sa 19:2-3 So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people. For the people heard it said that day, "The king is grieved for his son." [3] And the people stole back into the city that day, as people who are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.

- Those that had been victorious in battle, rather than having a return, a victory march, a gallant celebration, they snuck back into the city, like they had been defeated. Because of David's grieving, as he did for his son Absalom, it caused them to be ashamed.

2Sa 19:4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

- He was really carrying on. How David loved Absalom! What a tender expression this is. David had been a poor father. He had handled things so badly, but he loved his son and was broken by his death.

2Sa 19:5-6 Then Joab came into the house to the king, and said, "Today you have disgraced all your servants who today have saved your life, the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives and the lives of your concubines, [6] in that you love your enemies and hate your friends. For you have declared today that you regard neither princes nor servants; for today I perceive that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died today, then it would have pleased you well.

- David, what you are doing is absolutely wrong. You have to face up to the fact that had Absalom prevailed today, you, all of your other children, all of your wives, and all of your concubines would have been slain! That was his intent and purpose! Here you are wailing over the fact that this kid is dead. But David, he was determined to hurt you and all of your servants. It appears David, that you really wished for us to be defeated, and Absalom to be victorious.
- David was blaming himself for what Absalom was. When David had sinned against Bathsheba, when God said, "Your sin is forgiven," the LORD also said, "But you are going to have to pay a price. The sword will not depart from your house. The shameful thing you did in secret, is going to be done openly by your own family." David was feeling the remorse of his own guilt, for his sin. Feeling the guilt for his sin, he really desired punishment.
- Joab here, was acting, in David's best interest, and in the best interest of the kingdom. There has been a general revolt against David. Absalom has led it. Though the armies of those who rebelled had been defeated, yet the spirit of rebellion still hangs. If David does not change his behavior, these men who put their very lives in jeopardy to save David, are not going to go out again, and David will perish, and someone else will take the throne. So Joab's strength and advice to David at this point, is good. It is wise.

2Sa 19:7 Now therefore, arise, go out and speak comfort to your servants. For I swear by the LORD, if you do not go out, not one will stay with you this night. And that will be worse for you than all the evil that has befallen you from your youth until now.

- "Man, if you do not go out there, and change your behavior, and speak comfortably, these guys feel ashamed David! You have made them feel bad!
- Now you go out there and you speak comfortably to them or listen, they are going to desert you. Man the trouble you are going to face is nothing compared with all of the trouble you have had from your birth till now! You have not seen anything David, like what you are going to see if you do not change and behave yourself right now."

David Returns to Jerusalem

2Sa 19:8 Then the king arose and sat in the gate. And they told all the people, saying, "There is the king, sitting in the gate." So all the people came before the king. For everyone of Israel had fled to his tent.

- David obeys the counsel, and it is a very good move. The enemy had fled, and so David's men all came before him.

2Sa 19:9 Now all the people were in a dispute throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king saved us from the hand of our enemies, he delivered us from the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled from the land because of Absalom.

- There was still the division throughout Israel. Is David able to protect us anymore? Though he had delivered us from the enemies, from the Philistines, he fled from Absalom

2Sa 19:10 But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, has died in battle. Now therefore, why do you say nothing about bringing back the king?"

- Israel said, "Hey, we turned against David, but man this is the guy that saved us from our enemies, and from the Philistines. We went to Absalom's cause, but Absalom's dead. Maybe we better get the king back, you know, we better bring David back."

2Sa 19:11-12 So King David sent to Zadok and Abiathar the priests (in Jerusalem), saying, "Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, 'Why are you the last to bring the king back to his house, since the words of all Israel have come to the king, to his very house?' [12] You are my brethren, you are my bone and my flesh. Why then are you the last to bring back the king?"

- David hears that there is all of this rumbling going in Israel. The people are saying, "Boy we better bring the king back." But he did not hear anything from Judah. Now he was of the tribe of Judah. Reigning, really in Jerusalem, the area of the tribe of Judah, so he says to the two priests, "Hey all over Israel the buzz is to bring the king back, but you guys ought to really be taking the lead in this movement."

2Sa 19:13 And say to Amasa, 'Are you not my bone and my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if you are not commander of the army before me continually in place of Joab.' "

- Now Amasa, a cousin of David, was the general over Absalom's army. He was not as capable a leader as was Joab, and Abishai. Though he had a superior army, Joab and Abishai put him down, they defeated him.
- Now he says, "Give Amasa a message, I will make him the general. I will put him over the troops instead of Joab." He was still angry that Joab had disobeyed his command, and had killed his son Absalom. So he is really offering the leadership of his armies unto Amasa, who led the armies that revolted against David.
- In making Amasa the general, it would have accomplished a couple of things. First, it would have erased their fears concerning revenge! As the commander of Absalom's army, Amasa, had been the most disloyal of all. In David saying Amasa is going to lead the military, this would prove to them, I am not planning any kind of campaign of revenge.
- The second thing that it accomplished was that it allowed David to punish Joab for his deliberate disobedience to his command. It was not just that Joab killed Absalom, but that he had done it in defiance of an open public order that David had made

2Sa 19:14 So he swayed the hearts of all the men of Judah, just as the heart of one man, so that they sent this word to the king: "Return, you and all your servants!"

- So the message comes to David, "Return." It is sort of like Jesus, who is the rightful King over the earth, who came as the Messiah, was despised and rejected and has left the kingdom. But before He left, He said, "You will not see the Son of Man again, until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'" In other words until you really pray for His return. During the great tribulation, Israel's eyes will be open, and they will pray for the return of the King. (2Pe 3:11-13) Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, [12] looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? [13] Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (2Ti 4:8) Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.
- **How actively am I working, watching, praying for the soon return of my King?**

2Sa 19:15 Then the king returned and came to the Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to escort the king across the Jordan.

- Gilgal was the first place where the children of Israel camped, when Joshua led them into the land. After they crossed over the Jordan river, they encamped in Gilgal. From there, they went against the city of Jericho. But that was the first place of encampment. The men of Judah came down to Gilgal. David returned over the Jordan river there from the other side.

David Pardons His Enemies

2Sa 19:16 And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, who was from Bahurim, hurried and came down with the men of Judah to meet King David.

- **Shimei was the guy when David was leaving, was throwing rocks, cursing David,** and throwing dirt in the air. David's bodyguard Abishai said, "Let me go take off his head David, please! Why should this dead dog curse the king? And David said, "No let him curse. Maybe God has said to him, 'Curse me,' so let it go."
- **Now the king is coming back, Shimei thought he would never see David again,** and he was just getting in some last licks. He knows that his neck is still on the line. So he hurries down with the men of Judah, to meet king David.

2Sa 19:17 *There were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over the Jordan before the king.*

- **Shimei was probably pretty powerful** in Benjamin, the tribe of Benjamin.
- **Ziba and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants, went over** the Jordan river to meet the king. In their enthusiasm and anxiety, to make things right with David, they forded over the Jordan to meet the king.

2Sa 19:18-19 *Then a ferryboat went across to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. Now Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king when he had crossed the Jordan. [19] Then he said to the king, "Do not let my lord impute iniquity to me, or remember what wrong your servant did on the day that my lord the king left Jerusalem, that the king should take it to heart.*

- **Please do not take it to heart David, do not.** All that cursing and throwing of rocks and everything else. Those perverse things I did. I did not mean it. Do not impute iniquity to me." Shimei is getting *lord, king, and servant* in there about as much as he can!

2Sa 19:20 *For I, your servant, know that I have sinned. Therefore here I am, the first to come today of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.*"

- **Shimei pleads with David not to remember all of the things** that he had done wrong, confessing that he has done wrong, and hopes that he will take into account the fact that I am one of the first to greet you in here in showing grace.

2Sa 19:21 *But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, "Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD's anointed?"*

- **"David, you are God's anointed, he cursed you. Shouldn't he be put to death?"** Abishai's still wanting to take this guy's head off.
- **A misguided zeal for David that wants to express itself in this way,** and we have to be careful again, as we have seen before, of the counsel that people that love us most will sometimes give us when it is a time to show some grace.

2Sa 19:22 *And David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should be adversaries to me today? Shall any man be put to death today in Israel? For do I not know that today I am king over Israel?"*

- **You know it is a day of rejoicing,** not a day of revenge and bloodshed!
- **David, again, is demonstrating a beautiful characteristic of his leadership style.** He says, Listen, I am the king. I know I am the king. I am confident and secure in that. I do not have to be killing people to prove to everyone that I have the power of being a king.
- **What would I have done if I were in David's situation as king? Would I have shown grace as he did, contrary to Abishai's advice, or would I have had him taken care of?**

2Sa 19:23 *Therefore the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king swore to him.*

- **It was commendable on David's part.** Unfortunately, David did not really forgive Shimei. Later on, when David was dying, he said to his son Solomon, who was to succeed him on the throne, "I want you to remember what that guy Shimei did. How he cursed me and did those horrible things when I was fleeing from Jerusalem. Take care of him son. You know what to do."
- **A forgiveness that is not full, is not a true forgiveness.** When a person says, "Well I forgive you, but I'll never forget," that's not true forgiveness. That is like saying, "Alright, I'll bury the hatchet, but I'll leave the handle showing, so I can find it when I need it." This is the problem with man that often our forgiveness is not a true forgiveness. We often imagine God to be as ourselves, not having the proper concept of what true forgiveness is. When God forgives you of your sin, it is a total, complete forgiveness. It is never to be remembered against you again! As far as the east is from the west, so far

has He separated us from our sins. God's forgiveness for you is total, it is complete. Never again will you have to answer to God for that sin that has been placed under the blood of Jesus Christ! It is gone, it is washed, it is cleansed!

- **It is tragic that our forgiveness is such that we are prone to bring it up again in the future.** We are prone to throw up the past to a person. "Yes, but you did that," "Yeah, but I asked you to forgive me," "Yeah, I forgave you, but I will never forget!" Well, no, no, no. That is not the true forgiveness, that you keep throwing it up at the person, what you did. That is not forgiveness at all. But unfortunately, that's human. That is us.
- **But that is not God, and we must not think of God's forgiveness in the terms by which we forgive one another.** God's forgiveness is complete.
- **You have been justified, which is even a step further!** It is not just being declared innocent, or forgiven, it is being declared so innocent, as though you had never committed it to begin with! It is wiping the slate clean! It is the erasing and the blotting out of our transgressions!
- **You do not need to sit, and mope over past sins!** You do not need to let that sin just press on you! God has forgiven it! It is wiped away, it is clean, it is gone! You do not have to face it ever again. For God's forgiveness, is total and it is complete. David's is not so. Man's, not so.
- ***How Christ-like is my forgiveness? Do I ever just say, I forgive you, but in my heart I am saying, I will never forget!***

2Sa 19:24 Now Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. And he had not cared for his feet, nor trimmed his mustache, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he returned in peace.

- *Mephibosheth was lame, and it could be that he had sores on his feet, and they would have to constantly dressed. He had not cared for his feet, nor trimmed his mustache, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed.* Mephibosheth was a smelly dirty mess, by the time David saw him. But these were signs of mourning, of grieving, over David being deposed.
- **He put on an outward appearance that jeopardized his own life,** because he said by his appearance, I do not agree with this rebellion of Absalom. I am mourning because the true king is not here. And he was willing, though he was crippled, as it were, to put his life in jeopardy for the true king!
- ***With regard to my putting my life on the line for my King, am I really committed to do as Mephibosheth did?***

2Sa 19:25 So it was, when he had come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said to him, "Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?"

- Now Mephibosheth probably could not get through the crowds down at the river, so when David got back to Jerusalem, Mephibosheth came to him, and David said, "Hey, how come you didn't come with us man?"

2Sa 19:26-27 And he answered, "My lord, O king, my servant (Ziba) deceived me. For your servant said, 'I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go to the king,' because your servant is lame. [27] And he (Ziba) has slandered your servant to my lord the king, but my lord the king is like the angel of God. Therefore do what is good in your eyes.

- **Ziba lied about me.** He said he would saddle a donkey for me, but he did not. He took off, and of course he took the donkeys that were saddled, gave them to David, and said, "Oh Mephibosheth stayed back," and he lied about him. saying, "Well they are giving me the throne now."
- **Mephibosheth said, "You know, I am lame. I could not do anything.** Ziba has slandered me before you. But look, you are like an angel of God. You do what is ever good in your eyes. Do what is right David."

2Sa 19:28 For all my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king. Yet you set your servant among those who eat at your own table. Therefore what right have I still to cry out anymore to the king?"

- What can I say? You know, you have been so good to me! What can I say?

2Sa 19:29 So the king said to him, "Why do you speak anymore of your matters? I have said, 'You and Ziba divide the land.' "

- Now remember, he had told Ziba, “You can have all that pertains to Mephibosheth.” Now David says, “Okay fellows, divide it.” So, Ziba gets half, and Mephibosheth retains half. It seems like David is leaving up the truth between the two conflicting accounts up to God to bring out the truth.
- **How prone am I in decision making situations of opposing sides to leave the decision up to God?**

2Sa 19:30 Then Mephibosheth said to the king, “Rather, let him take it all, inasmuch as my lord the king has come back in peace to his own house.”

- I am so happy to have you back, Ziba can have it all! David. I am just thrilled that you are here. I do not care about land. I did not have anything when you brought me into your household all I care about is that you have come back and you are the king once again! What a beautiful heart we see in Mephibosheth! I feel this proves Mephibosheth's sincerity!

2Sa 19:31-32 And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim and went across the Jordan with the king, to escort him across the Jordan. [32] Now Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. And he had provided the king with supplies while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very rich man.

- Barzillai was evidently a very wealthy man. When Mephibosheth had fled to Mahanaim, Barzillai had taken him in, and cared for him. When David would restore Mephibosheth, because Barzillai was a friend of Mephibosheth, he took care of David and his people. He is an old man, and a wealthy man, and now he comes as far as the Jordan, to see David safely across.

2Sa 19:33 And the king said to Barzillai, “Come across with me, and I will provide for you while you are with me in Jerusalem.”

- You took care of me when I was down and out. David offers to care for him for the rest of his life.

2Sa 19:34-35 But Barzillai said to the king, “How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? [35] I am today eighty years old. Can I discern between the good and bad? Can your servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Can I hear any longer the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be a further burden to my lord the king?”

- I am getting to be an old man. You know eating is not a big thing with me anymore. I do not have many taste buds left. I cannot hear the voice of singing anymore. I am deaf, you know. I am getting pretty decrepit, and so you know the things around the palace, they do not really have much appeal. You know, “Thanks, but no thanks!”

2Sa 19:36 Your servant will go a little way across the Jordan with the king. And why should the king repay me with such a reward?

- Why should you repay me with such a great reward? I did not do it for that. I do not need any of this.

2Sa 19:37 Please let your servant turn back again, that I may die in my own city, near the grave of my father and mother. But here is your servant Chimham; let him cross over with my lord the king, and do for him what seems good to you.”

- You know, I am too old, I could not enjoy it. I would just as soon stay here and die, but let Chimham cross over with you.

2Sa 19:38 And the king answered, “Chimham shall cross over with me, and I will do for him what seems good to you. Now whatever you request of me, I will do for you.”

- I will do it for him for your sake.

2Sa 19:39 Then all the people went over the Jordan. And when the king had crossed over, the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and he returned to his own place.

- David kissed and blessed Barzillai and he went back to Mahanaim.

2Sa 19:40 Now the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him. And all the people of Judah escorted the king, and also half the people of Israel.

- We see Chimham mentioned about 300 years later. (Jer 41:17) *And they departed and dwelt in the habitation of Chimham, which is near Bethlehem, as they went on their way to Egypt,*

2Sa 19:41-42 Just then all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, “Why have our brethren, the men of Judah, stolen you away and brought the king, his household, and all David's men with him across the Jordan?” [42] So all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, “Because the king is a close relative of ours. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we ever eaten at the king's expense? Or has he given us any gift?”

- **We are here because king David is of the tribe of Judah.** We are of the tribe of Judah. We are family man! We have not eaten at the king's table, we have been no expense to you. We have done this on our own. David never showed any kind of favoritism to any of the tribes.

2Sa 19:43 *And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, "We have ten shares in the king; therefore we also have more right to David than you. Why then do you despise us—were we not the first to advise bringing back our king?" Yet the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.*

- **The men of Israel answered, Oh there's still problems fellas!** Israel now the ten tribes, against the tribes of Judah. They were not totally unified, even under David's reign. They became a little more unified under Solomon's reign, but when Solomon's son took over, the division was complete. Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, could not hold the whole nation together. The ten northern tribes joined together under the reign of Jeroboam, who they appointed king, and Rehoboam remained the king over the two southern tribes. So the problems that sort of began here, continued to fester until there was the breach, the break, the northern and the southern kingdoms, and then the resulting civil wars that took place under the nation of Israel.

The Rebellion of Sheba

2Sa 20:1 *And there happened to be there a rebel, whose name was Sheba the son of Bichri, a Benjamite. And he blew a trumpet, and said: "We have no share in David, Nor do we have inheritance in the son of Jesse; Every man to his tents, O Israel!"*

- **At this time of dissension between Judah and the other tribes, Sheba, a rebel, a man of Belial, rose up.** He blew a trumpet, and he said, *We have no part in David, neither have we any inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tent, O Israel.* In other words, "You know, let us forget David, we do not need to follow him, in that he is for the tribe of Judah. So, to your tents O Israel."
- **Again there came then a division following** the death of Solomon when Israel was divided into the northern and the southern kingdom. So this movement is going on even at the time of David.

2Sa 20:2-3 *So every man of Israel deserted David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah, from the Jordan as far as Jerusalem, remained loyal to their king. [3] Now David came to his house at Jerusalem. And the king took the ten women, his concubines whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in seclusion and supported them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up to the day of their death, living in widowhood.*

- **It is an unrighteous rebellion.** God wants David to be the king. God's got at least ten more years for him to rule the nation of Israel. He has no interest in Sheba becoming the king of Israel.
- **It is amazing. Five minutes earlier, they are fighting over the privilege of being able to be the tribes** that get the credit for making David king once again. Once they do not get their way, they join Sheba in his rebellion against David as the king. We are not talking about a bunch of hoodlums on the street. We are talking about God's people! How mean, how fickle and quickly they turn on this rebellion that Sheba leads!
- **We remember when Absalom put the tent on the roof, and went in to David's ten concubines,** whom he had left to keep the palace. David took care of them and all, but he would not go into them.

2Sa 20:4 *And the king said to Amasa, "Assemble the men of Judah for me within three days, and be present here yourself."*

- **Then the king said to Amasa, Now remember David, was angry with Joab,** because Joab had disobeyed his order. He said, "Hey, take it easy with Absalom, you know, treat him well and be kind to my son Absalom," but instead, Joab killed Absalom. It made David angry with Joab, and so when he sent a message of the death of Absalom, to Amasa, his other cousin, who Absalom had made the ruler, over the armies, or the chief of the armies, (**2Sa 19:13b**) *God do so to me, and more also, if you are not commander of the army before me continually in place of Joab.* So, Amasa had been given this title of the general, chief of the armies of David.

2Sa 20:5 *So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah. But he delayed longer than the set time which David had appointed him.*

- **Now, why Amasa tarried longer, it is not said.** This is not a good sign related to Amasa, his first responsibility. as David's commander-in-chief, very unprofessional and really a disturbing lack of leadership on his part.

2Sa 20:6 And David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom. Take your lord's servants and pursue him, lest he find for himself fortified cities, and escape us."

- David did not go to Joab to lead the army against Sheba because by this time he has learned that Joab was responsible for the death of his son in the battle and he has removed him as his commander-in-chief. He goes to the next kind of bravest, most battle-experienced man in his army, to Joab's brother Abishai.
- Let us get Sheba before he escapes and gets into a fortified city, and we have got to lay siege to that city, and this becomes a big, drawn-out affair. David's not interested in a protracted civil war in the nation at this time, having just come out of something like that.
- **Notice how decisive and how quickly David responds to this new threat from Sheba, immediately following Absalom's rebellion! Tired and weary from the last battle how willing am I to listen to the Lord in quickly going forward in this new one?**

2Sa 20:7 So Joab's men, with the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and all the mighty men, went out after him. And they went out of Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

- Joab's men, apparently loyal to Joab, joined this force with Abishai.

2Sa 20:8 When they were at the large stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa came before them. Now Joab was dressed in battle armor; on it was a belt with a sword fastened in its sheath at his hips; and as he was going forward, it fell out.

- Amasa apparently came to Jerusalem late. David tells them the forces are already on their way under Abishai. Here is where you can catch up to them.
- Apparently Joab adjusted his sword on his belt so that it fell from the sheath as he stepped forward to greet Amasa, who assumes that the sword has fallen to the ground as an accident and that he is perfectly safe.

2Sa 20:9 Then Joab said to Amasa, "Are you in health, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him.

- These two are cousins, but Joab was upset because David had made Amasa the general over him.

2Sa 20:10 But Amasa did not notice the sword that was in Joab's hand. And he struck him with it in the stomach, and his entrails poured out on the ground; and he did not strike him again. Thus he died. Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri.

- Joab, being a seasoned soldier knew how to kill a man with just one strike. Thus, *Amasa died*. Joab retakes command of Israel's forces just as if nothing had happened here. This is how cold-blooded he is in terms of anybody threatening his position in the government, and the pursuit is rejoined to go after Sheba.
- Here is the third murder committed by Joab. He had a way of getting rid of competition. Once before, when David was going to bring Abner, the general of Saul, into his army, Joab did Abner in. Then he did in Absalom, and now Amasa, who David was intending to make the general over his armies. When David was dying, he said to Solomon, "Take care of Joab. That guy has given me a lot of grief, and he has shed a lot of blood. Do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace."

2Sa 20:11 Meanwhile one of Joab's men stood near Amasa, and said, "Whoever favors Joab and whoever is for David—follow Joab!"

- One of Joab's men challenges all of the soldiers to side with Joab as an expression of their support for Joab and for David. They are less than excited about being associated with this act. They looked at it and horrified them.

2Sa 20:12 But Amasa wallowed in his blood in the middle of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he moved Amasa from the highway to the field and threw a garment over him, when he saw that everyone who came upon him halted.

- This was an unrighteous, cold-blooded murder of a human being and a Jew. They wanted to follow Joab in order to bring victory for Israel, but they did not want their loyalty to be misunderstood as condoning this particular act. So, it brings the whole movement of the army to a screeching halt!

2Sa 20:13-14 When he was removed from the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri. [14] And he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel and Beth Maachah (up in the northern most part of Israel) and all the Berites. So they were gathered together and also went after Sheba.

- This army is getting larger and larger as they make their way northward through Israel where they are ultimately going to fight against Sheba.

2Sa 20:15 *Then they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth Maachah; and they cast up a siege mound against the city, and it stood by the rampart. And all the people who were with Joab battered the wall to throw it down.*

- Able is a fortified city that Sheba had hid himself behind, putting the civilians in danger, where a lot of innocent blood would need to be shed in order to get to him. It is a very strategic move, but Sheba is going to discover that this city was not interested in being held hostage by him or his plans. He just picked the wrong city.

2Sa 20:16-18 *Then a wise woman cried out from the city, "Hear, hear! Please say to Joab, 'Come nearby, that I may speak with you.'" [17] When he had come near to her, the woman said, "Are you Joab?" He answered, "I am." Then she said to him, "Hear the words of your maidservant." And he answered, "I am listening." [18] So she spoke, saying, "They used to talk in former times, saying, 'They shall surely seek guidance at Abel,' and so they would end disputes.*

- The city of Abel was a city that was famous for wisdom, for people bringing disputes that they could not solve with their elders or their leadership, or in their cities elsewhere in the land. They say, let us take it to Abel, which is a city that is known for wisdom, and they solve problems there, so things do not have to turn into a war. So she says, that is the reputation that we have around here.

2Sa 20:19 *I am among the peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel. Why would you swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?"*

- We are not, who picked this fight? This is a peaceful city and you seek to destroy it. Why would you swallow up the inheritance of the LORD? Joab, what in the world are you doing here?

2Sa 20:20-21 *And Joab answered and said, "Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy!" [21] That is not so. But a man from the mountains of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has raised his hand against the king, against David. Deliver him only, and I will depart from the city." So the woman said to Joab, "Watch, his head will be thrown to you over the wall."*

- She said, why didn't you say so? You do not have to tear down a whole city to do this. We know how to take care of this. So apparently, this is a city known for wisdom. Do not go messing around with the city. So she understands and says to watch Sheba's head, which will be thrown over the wall!

2Sa 20:22 *Then the woman in her wisdom went to all the people. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and threw it out to Joab. Then he blew a trumpet, and they withdrew from the city, every man to his tent. So Joab returned to the king at Jerusalem.*

- She got them together and said, "Look, Joab is out there, they are besieging the city. They are battering the wall, and if we seek to resist them, it is going to be all of our lives. Now here is this guy Sheba, we do not know him, he comes from Ephraim, why should we all be destroyed for this guy we do not even know? Let us take off his head, throw it over the wall, so they will leave." So that is what they did; because at the death of Sheba, the rebellion is now over.

2Sa 20:23 *And Joab was over all the army of Israel; Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites;*

- Joab was over all of the host of Israel. No one was ready to challenge him anymore for his title!
- Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, David's personal bodyguard. Benaiah became then, Solomon's chief over his army. Benaiah was the one who fell upon Joab and killed him.

2Sa 20:24 *Adoram was in charge of revenue; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;*

- Charge of revenue. This is new to this list. In the earlier list, there was no office in David's cabinet having to do with taxes. This is the first mention of taxes of this kind in the history of Israel under David. Probably in the early part of David's reign, there was no need for taxation in order to support the government and the laws of the land and all of this because in the conquest of all of the nations around them after they had been attacked by them in the conquest of these nations and the wealth that was gained in that conquest, there probably was not a need for any taxes. But now, many years after that, now there was a need for taxation in order to support this central government.

2Sa 20:25-26 *Sheva was scribe; Zadok and Abiathar were the priests; [26] and Ira the Jairite was a chief minister under David.*

- **Ira took the place of David's sons who were operating as ministers** on the cabinet, and they are no longer a part of David's cabinet formerly, which is a good thing. So these are the ones that headed up Israel at this particular point.
- **We note how successful David was as king of Israel in winning battles!** But surely we all agree, it was because *“The battle belongs to the LORD!”*

SUMMARY

- **How actively am I working, watching, praying** for the soon return of my King? (2Sa 19:14)
- **What would I have done if I were in David's situation as king?** Would I have shown grace as he did, contrary to Abishai's advice, or would I have had Shamai taken care of? (2Sa 19:22)
- **How Christ-like is my forgiveness?** Do I ever just say, I forgive you, but in my heart I am saying, I will never forget! (2Sa 19:23)
- **With regard to my putting my life on the line for my King,** am I really committed to do as Mephibosheth did? (2Sa 19:24)
- **How prone am I in decision making situations of opposing sides** to leave the decision up to God? (2Sa 19:29)
- **Notice how decisive and how quickly David responds to this new threat from Sheba, immediately following Absalom's rebellion!** Tired and weary from the last battle how willing am I to listen to the Lord in quickly going forward in this new one? (2Sa 20:6)

THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD Jamie (Sue) Collins by Maranatha Music(2:54/2:57)

In heavenly armor we'll enter the land The battle belongs to the Lord

No weapon that's fashioned against us shall stand The battle belongs to the Lord

(Chorus) We sing glory, honor Power and strength to the Lord

We sing glory, honor Power and strength to the Lord

When the power of darkness comes in like a flood The battle belongs to the Lord

He's raised up a standard, the power of His blood The battle belongs to the Lord (Chorus)

To the Lord - When your enemy presses in hard do not fear The battle belongs to the Lord

Take courage my friend, your redemption is near The battle belongs to the Lord (Chorus 2x)

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 2 Samuel, Chapters 21-22!