

## Bibles???

### The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

We are continuing our study through the book of 2 Samuel –

Our text this evening will be 2 Samuel 20-21

Let's pray...

Last week we saw David return to Jerusalem after God had given him victory over Absalom's rebellion.

And one of the things I pointed out was that David didn't impose himself among the people – he could have – after all, he won

But instead, he waited for them to want him back as king.

So the people united and called for David to be their king again.

If the bible was a fairy tale, this is how 2 Samuel would end.

But guess what church – the bible is not a fairy tale.

Because we saw an ominous sign at the end of chapter 19 – where the tribes began to argue over who loved David more.

“Why does the tribe of Judah get to escort David back to Jerusalem – we wanted to escort him???” – that is what the other tribes of Israel were complaining about.

So David, after just finishing up with a rebellion, is now going to have to deal with another one.

**[2Sa 20:1-26 NKJV] 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!" 2 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.**

I asked you to make a note of the name Sheba – he is the one that is going to lead this new rebellion against David.

He is a Benjamite – the same tribe as King Saul.

And he sees the division between the tribes and takes advantage of it and adds fuel to fire by making a proclamation that David doesn't care about them, so let's rebel against him.

And that is exactly what the ten tribes of Israel did.

Just a few moments earlier they were arguing over David and now they are rejecting David as their king.

I see a parallel to when Jesus entered Jerusalem – on that Sunday they shouted Hosanna! Hosanna! And a few days later the crowd shouted crucify Him, crucify Him.

**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.**

These were the concubines that David left behind as he fled Absalom.

And Ahithophel advised Absalom to have sex with these women to get back at David and also to show Israel that Absalom was taking his father's place.

So David, when gets back – he gets these 10 concubines and he stores them away for the rest of their lives.

He continues to support them – but they no longer have access to the king.

Here we see another consequence of David's sin.

We talk about the consequences that he had to endure and his children had to endure, but these women – their lives will never be the same.

Church, always remember that our sin always affects others negatively.

**4 And the king said to Amasa, "Assemble the men of Judah for me within three days, and be present here yourself." 5 So Amasa went to assemble [the men of] Judah. But he delayed longer than the set time which David had appointed him. 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."**

Amasa was Absalom's general – but after Joab disobeyed David's order not to harm Absalom and in an effort to bring the nations together, David demotes Joab and promotes Amasa as his general.

So David wants Amasa to gather the army to go after Sheba to quench the rebellion. But apparently what is happening is that the men do not respect Amasa because he lacked experience and because they respected Joab.

So David orders Abishai, Joab's brother to go after Sheba.

**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. 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.**

So as they are chasing Sheba, Joab comes across Amasa, the guy who took his job.

And I asked you to make a note that Joab dropped his sword – and the reason was that Joab was an excellent experienced warrior, plus he was a murderer – and a very good one.

**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.**

So Joab goes to Amasa – “how’s it going dude?”

And as he draws closer he put his right hand on Amasa’s beard to kiss him – I asked you to make a note of that.

The right hand was considered your fighting hand – that is the one you swung your sword with.

If Joab’s right hand was on Amasa’s beard, then Amasa would be more at ease.

**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.**

So I guess Joab is back as general.

**11 Meanwhile one of Joab's men stood near Amasa, and said, "Whoever favors Joab and whoever [is] for David--follow Joab!" 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. 13 When he**

**was removed from the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.**

So as Amasa is laying there in the ground with all his guts spilled out – the army just stood still and watched –

So they simply moved Amasa's body and covered it up – “there's nothing to see here”

And then they started pursuing Sheba.

**14 And he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel and Beth Maachah and all the Berites. So they were gathered together and also went after [Sheba].**

Joab was able to assemble men that were loyal to David even among the tribes Israel.

That is how much people wanted to fight alongside him.

Remember, Amasa was given three days to assemble an army within Judah – and he couldn't do it. Joab does it among the people that didn't want David to be their king.

**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.**

David's worst fear had become true.

One of the reasons that David sent Abishai after Sheba was because he was afraid that he would lock himself up in a fortified city – and that is exactly what he has done.

So in the old days, if an army came upon a fortified city, one of the ways to defeat it was through a siege – if they couldn't penetrate the walls, they would surround the city and not allow anything to come in or go out and sooner or later, people would starve to death.

Sometimes, these sieges would go on for months and years.

And that is what is happening here.

**16 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]. 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?"**

This wise woman goes up to Joab and says, why are you trying to destroy our city?

Let's negotiate.

**20 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." 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.

Joab tells the wise woman that he is not there to destroy the city – he is there to get Sheba.

So the wise woman says – I will give you his head and she goes back into the city and throws Sheba's head out to Joab – and Joab and his men leave.

Now –

As I was studying this chapter – I think that many of us are like this wise woman.

And sometimes we may feel that we are under a siege and that God is trying to destroy us.

However, God doesn't want to destroy us – He only wants to eliminate the rebellion (or the sin) in our lives.

What did the wise woman do – cut off Sheba's head and what happened – Joab left with the troops.



Some of our trials last longer than they should because we simply will not cut the head of our own rebellion.

How do we do it?

The Bible says that “the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God” (Ephesians 6:17).

When I simply hear and believe the Word of God - the “hearing of faith” - the Spirit takes up the sword and kills sin, it puts sin to death.

Chapter 21 ends with David’s new government -

**23 And Joab [was] over all the army of Israel; Benaiah the son of Jehoiada [was] over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; 24 Adoram [was] in charge of revenue; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud [was] recorder; 25 Sheva [was] scribe; Zadok and Abiathar [were] the priests; 26 and Ira the Jairite was a chief minister under David.**

David was a man after God’s heart.

He wrote many of the psalms.

Yet – he still needed devotional help. Many believe that Ira was his personal chaplain.

The individual that would check on David and make sure that he did his daily devotionals and held him accountable.

If David needed one of these – we all need someone like Ira in our lives.

**[2Sa 21:1-22 NKJV] 1 Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, "[It is] because of Saul and [his] bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites." 2 So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites [were] not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; the children of Israel had sworn protection to them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah.**

In Joshua 9, after Joshua led the Children of Israel into the Promised Land and after the victories over Jericho and Ai, the Gibeonites knew that they were next – so they pretended to be from far away and made a peace treaty with Joshua.

Joshua, didn't seek God in making this treaty and therefore they fooled Joshua – he finds out that they were not from a faraway land but they were the neighbors up the road.

So Joshua makes the Gibeonites serve the tribes of Israel by cutting wood and carrying water in the worship of the Lord.

When Saul became king, he attempted to break the peace treaty with the Gibeonites by attacking them.

The problem with that was that God expected the Children of Israel to honor their promise – just like He expects us to honor our promises.

So here once again, we see the consequences of sin – Saul's sin – but now Israel is paying for it years after it all happened.

This is the same thing we saw with David's sin.

**3 Therefore David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? And with what shall I make atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the LORD?" 4 And the Gibeonites said to him, "We will have no silver or gold from Saul or from his house, nor shall you kill any man in Israel for us." So he said, "Whatever you say, I will do for you." 5 Then they answered the king, "As for the man who consumed us and plotted against us, [that] we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the territories of Israel, 6 "let seven men of his descendants be delivered to us, and we will hang them before the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, [whom] the LORD chose." And the king said, "I will give [them]."**

David wants to make things right with the Gibeonites – and he asks them – what will make it right?

And the Gibeonites ask that seven of descendents be handed over to them so that they can hang them.

It is important to note that the Gibeonites are not seeking revenge – Saul and his family would have certainly killed more than seven Gibeonites – remember, God referred to them as blood thirsty.

They simply wanted justice and this would be justice in their eyes.

**7 But the king spared Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the LORD's oath that [was] between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.**

Now, Mephibosheth was the lame guy we covered last week.

He was the one with the closer ties to Saul being his grandson.

But David had already made an oath with Jonathan that he would always show kindness to his descendants. So David was not going to give them Mephibosheth.

**8 So the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite; 9 and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the hill **before the LORD**. So they fell, [all] seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first [days], in the beginning of barley harvest.**

The phrase before the Lord implies that God approved of their execution.

The method of death was also important because it fulfilled the promise of Deuteronomy 21:23: he who is hanged is accursed of God. These descendants of Saul bore the curse Saul deserved and so delivered Israel from the guilt of their sin against the Gibeonites.

**10 Now Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains poured on them from heaven. And she did not allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night.**

From April through October – the bodies of these seven men were kept out in the open and Rizpah – the mother of two of them, dedicated herself to keeping the birds and the other animals from eating their carcasses.

**11 And David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done. 12 Then David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan his son, from the men of Jabesh Gilead who had stolen them from the street of Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them up, after the Philistines had struck down Saul in Gilboa. 13 So he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from there; and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged. 14 They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the tomb of Kish his father. So they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God heeded the prayer for the land.**

When Saul and Jonathan fell in battle against the Philistines their enemies had shamefully displayed their bodies.

The men of Jabesh Gilead risked their lives to retrieve the remains.

Up until this point the remains were buried far from Saul's inheritance.

David determined to gather the remains of Saul and Jonathan and these recently executed sons and give them a proper burial in their ancestral tomb.

"After that," the famine ended. In other words, it wasn't just the execution of these boys that was required.

There was other unfinished business that was suggested by their deaths.

Once they were dead, David could see clearly what further steps needed to be taken.

Israel had neglected to properly bury Saul and Jonathan.

**15 When the Philistines were at war again with Israel, David and his servants with him went down and fought against the Philistines; and David grew faint.**

David is old now – and here we see him fighting against the Philistines once again and David is having a hard time in battle.

**16 Then Ishbi-Benob, who [was] one of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose bronze spear [was] three hundred [shekels], who was bearing a new [sword], thought he could kill David.**

Ishbi-Benob was a descendent of Goliath – and it appears that he wants revenge for what David had done to his dad.

He had a spear that weighed 15 lbs

However, Goliath had a spear that weighed 15 lbs – and we all know what happened to him.

**17 But Abishai the son of Zeruah came to his aid, and struck the Philistine and killed him. Then the men of David swore to him, saying, "You shall go out no more with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel."**

Abishai comes and defeats Ishbi-Benob and then they tell David that he is not allowed to fight anymore – that he is getting too old.

**18 Now it happened afterward that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Saph, who [was] one of the sons of the giant. 19 Again there was war at Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-Oregim the Bethlehemite killed [the brother of] Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear [was] like a weaver's beam. 20 Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of [great] stature, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; and he also was born to the giant. 21 So when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's**

brother, killed him. 22 These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David and **by the hand of his servants.**

Here is the point church -

There was a time in Israel's history when a single giant made the entire army tremble in their boots.

Until a young man stepped up and took the challenge.

David was that giant killer.

And what we see here is that now there are other giant killers that have been raised up.

How where they raised up?

By following the example of David.

**(1 Co 11:1 NKJV) Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.**

Sometimes we get discouraged in our battles with our own "giants".

We make excuses as to why we can't conquer this "thing".

Others see us and follow our example.

When we decide to give up our excuses, and face our "giant" head on, it gives others courage to see that they can do it too.



It's not just about "me" and my "giant".

We are to set the example.

Amen

Let's pray...

