

2 Samuel 20 shape and keywords

And there, a so-called son of Belial named **Sheba son of Bichri**, a Benjaminite. **He sounded the trumpet** and cried out, "We have no portion in **David**, no share in the son of Jesse! Everyone to your tents, O Israel!" So all the men of Israel went up from **David** and **followed Sheba son of Bichri**; but the men of Judah **followed** and clung to their king from the Jordan to Jerusalem.

David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten concubines whom he had left to look after the house, and put them in a guardhouse and provided for them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up until the day of their death, living as if in widowhood.

[death of Amasa]

Then the king said to **Amasa**, "Cry out to the men of Judah together to me within three days, and be here yourself." So **Amasa** went to cry out to Judah; but he delayed, yes, delayed beyond the set time that had been appointed him. **David** said to **Abishai**, "Now **Sheba son of Bichri** will do us more evil than Absalom; take your lord's servants and **follow** and **pursue** him, or he will find cities for himself, and would cut out and snatch our eyes."

Joab's men **followed** him, along with the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and all the warriors; they **followed** from Jerusalem **to pursue Sheba son of Bichri**. When they were at the high place that is in Gibeon, **Amasa** came to face them. Now **Joab** was wearing a soldier's garment and over it was a belt with a sword in its sheath fastened at his loins; as he went forward it fell out. **Joab** said to **Amasa**, "Is it *shalom* with you, my brother?" And **Joab** took **Amasa** by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. But **Amasa** did not notice the sword in **Joab's** hand; **Joab** struck him in the belly so that his entrails poured out on the ground, and he died. He did not strike a second blow.

Then **Joab** and his brother **Abishai followed** and **pursued Sheba son of Bichri**. And one of **Joab's** men, a young man, took his stand by **Amasa**, and said, "Whoever favors **Joab**, and whoever is for **David**, let him **follow Joab**." **Amasa** lay wallowing in his blood on the highway, and the man saw that all the people were turning. Since he saw that all who came by him were stopping, he carried **Amasa** from the highway into a field and threw a garment over him.

Once he was removed from the highway, all the people **followed Joab to pursue Sheba son of Bichri**. **Sheba** passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel of Beth-maacah; and all the Bichrites assembled and **followed** him inside. They came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maacah; they threw up a siege-ramp against the city, and it stood against the rampart. **Joab** and all the people were battering the wall to break it down.

[death of Sheba]

Then a wise woman called from the city, "Listen! Listen! Tell **Joab**, 'Come here, please, behold, I want to speak to you.'" He came near her; and the woman said, "Are you **Joab**?" He answered, "I am." Then she said to him, "Listen to the words of your servant." He answered, "I am listening." Then she said, yes, said, "They used to say, yes, used to say, in the old days, 'Let them ask, yes, ask at Abel'; and so they would settle a matter. I am peaceable and faithful in Israel; you seek to kill a city that is a mother in Israel; why will you swallow up the heritage of YHWH?" **Joab** answered, "Far be it from me, far be it, that I should swallow up or destroy! That is not the case! But a man of the hill country of Ephraim, called **Sheba son of Bichri**, has lifted up his hand against King **David**; give him up alone, and I will withdraw from the city." The woman said to **Joab**, "Behold, his head shall be thrown over the wall to you." Then the woman went to all the people with her wise plan. And they cut off the head of **Sheba son of Bichri** and threw it out to **Joab**.

So he blew the trumpet, and they dispersed from the city, and all went to their tents, while **Joab** returned to Jerusalem to the king.

And **Joab** toward all the army of Israel; Benaiah son of Jehoiada of the Cherethites and the Pelethites; Adoram of the forced labor; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud the recorder; Sheva secretary; Zadok and Abiathar priests; and Ira the Jairite was also **David's** priest.