

2 SAMUEL 20 vs 1

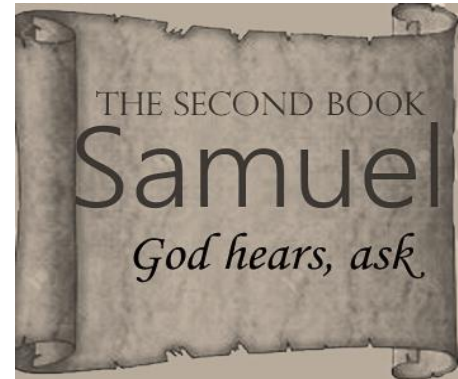
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In the 350 years of the judges before this book; years characterize by the phrase: and the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. Obviously, the Lord said enough and sent Samuel, who was the last good judge, who moved in the power of the Spirit.

This second book of Samuel focuses on the history of the reign of King David, making Jerusalem both the political and religious center of the nation. At this time, Zadok is the high priest,

Division between Judah and Israel continue,



¹ **And there happened to be a man of Belial / a worthless son of a B, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, nor have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: each to his tents, O Israel / in other words, go home and resist from there.**

² **So all the men of Israel withdrew from following David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah clung to their king, from the Jordan as far as to Jerusalem.**

³ **And 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 under guard, and fed them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up to the day of their death, living in widows.**

⁴ **Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble the men of Judah within three days for me, and you be present also.**

⁵ **So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah: but he delayed longer than the set time which was appointed him.**

⁶ **And David said to Abishai, Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom did: now take the servants of your lord, and pursue after him, lest he find fortified cities, and escape our sight.**

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

⁸ **When they were at the large stone that is in Gibeon, Amasa came to meet them.**

Now Joab was dressed in his military garments, and over it was a belt with a sword fastened to his loins in its sheath; and as he went forth it fell out.

⁹ **And Joab said to Amasa, Are you well, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him.**

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¹⁰ But Amasa did not notice the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he struck him with it below the fifth rib, and his bowels poured out on the ground, and did not strike him again; and he died. Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹¹ Now there stood by him one of the men of Joab, and said, Whoever favors Joab, and he who is for David, let him follow after 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 dragged Amasa from the highway into the field, and threw a garment over him, when he saw that everyone who came with him didn't move.

¹³ As soon as he was removed from the highway, all the people followed after Joab, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹⁴ Now he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel, even to Beth-maachah and all the Berites: and they were gathered together, and also went after him.

¹⁵ And they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maachah, and they cast up a mound against the city, and it stood by the trench: and all the people who were with Joab battered the wall, to topple it.

¹⁶ Then a wise woman called out from the city, Hear, hear; please tell Joab, Come here that I may speak with you.

¹⁷ So when he approached her, the woman said, Are you Joab? And he answered, I am he. Then she said to him, Hear the words of your maidservant. And he answered, I hear you.

¹⁸ Then she spoke, saying, Previously, they would speak, saying, They will surely ask advice at Abel: and so they ended the matter.

¹⁹ I am of those who are peaceable and faithful in Israel. And you seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel: why will you swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?

²⁰ And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy.

²¹ This matter is not so: but a man from Mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has lifted up his hand against King David: only deliver him, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said to Joab, Behold, his head will be thrown to you over the wall.

²² Then the woman wisely came to all the people. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab. So he blew a trumpet, and they dispersed from the city, each to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king.

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²³ Now Joab was over the whole army of **Israel**: and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites:

²⁴ and Adoram was over the forced labor: and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder:

²⁵ and Sheva was scribe: and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests:

²⁶ and Ira the Jairite was a chief ruler for David.

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