

12/13/09

**2Sam. 19-20**

David has received the news of the death of his son Absalom and he is crushed.

His overwhelming sorrow was endangering the victory God had given to the people and him.

The people were disheartened and the kingdom was in jeopardy of being divided.

\* The chapter division is unfortunate, verse 8 would have been a better break for chapter 18.

**19:1-43      The return of David to Jerusalem.**

**19:1-8**    The mixed message of David to the people of Israel.

**19:1-4**    *The mourning of David for Absalom, disheartened the people.*

- 1) Joab was informed about the conduct of David, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." vs. 1
- 2) The people were made to feel guilty and ashamed for their victory. vs. 2
- 3) The people went back into the city, as fleeing from battle. vs. 3

- 4) The conduct of David was betraying the people, as he continued to cry out for his son. vs. 4

\* I was not the time and place!

**19:5-8**    The strong rebuke of David by Joab for disheartening the people.

- 1) Joab told David he was ungrateful to the people by his prolonged lamentation by shaming the people, when in fact they saved David and his household. vs. 5
- 2) Joab told David he acting as a traitor, to the people, communicating it would have been better if they had been defeated. vs. 6
- 3) Joab commanded David he was to under gird the people or thing would be worst than he had ever experience or imagine. vs. 7  
\* He communicated with an oath by Yahweh. that all would abandon him.
- 4) Joab succeeded in his words to David. vs. 8
  - a) The king, David, took his rightful place as king, at the gate. vs. 8a
    - 1)) The gate was the place of judgment, to declare victory.
    - 2)) The gate was for reigning authority, as the victorious and ruling king.

- b) The people heard the news and were encourage and comforted.

**19:9-14** The division of the people is reunited by David.

**19:9-10** *The dilemma of the people.*

- 1) The people were in a dispute throughout all the tribes of Israel, those would had conspired with Absalom, seeing David had delivered them from the Philistines but fled from Absalom. vs. 9
- 2) Absalom being dead, they wanted to confirm David again as king. vs. 10

**19:11-14** *The wise strategy of David.*

- 1) David sent to Zadok and Abiathar the priests to speak to the elders of Judah, and reprove them for not being the first to bring him back, being his own tribe. vs. 11-12
- 2) David made a wise political decision, making Amasa, the general of Absalom, his general, in place of Joab. vs. 13
  - a) This would communicate to all who sided with Absalom that David was not interested in retaliating but forgiving.
  - b) Remember he was also a relative of David, a nephew, cousin to Joab. 2Sam. 17:25

- 3) David accomplish his endeavor to unite the kingdom to himself again. vs. 14

**19:15-39** The journey of David from Mahanaim to Jerusalem.

**19:15-23** *The encounter with Shimei.*

- 1) David return, crossing Jordan and came to Gilgal, where Judah met him, to escort him back across. vs. 15
  - a) Gilgal means “a wheel, rolling”, 20 miles south from Jerusalem.
  - b) This was the first site of an Israelite camp west of the Jordan, east of Jericho, when they crossed the Jordan. Josh. 3-5
  - c) The place where Samuel was judge, renewed the covenant and Saul was made king. 1Sam. 11:14-15
  - d) Later used it was used for illicit worship.
- 2) Shimei the Benjamite, who cured David, when he fled from Jerusalem was present to meet David. vs. 16-17

\* 2Sam. 16:5-14

  - a) One thousand men of Benjamin with him.
  - b) Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him.

c) They crossed over the Jordan before the king.

\* Ziba and these were one being of the house of Saul. 2Sam. 9:1-10

- 3) A ferryboat was used to transport David and his house and Shimei was there to meet David prostrated on his face to greet him. vs. 18
- 4) Shimei asked for forgiveness, that the king not take his offensive words to heart and wanted to be the first to greet him, at his return. vs. 19-20
- 5) Abishai the son of Zeruah wanted to kill him, as when he cursed David, but David would not have it and rebuked him again. vs. 21-22
  - a) Affirming he was King, in authority!
  - b) A smart move politically, to unite the kingdom.
- 6) David swore he would not die. vs. 23

\* But prior to his death, he told Solomon to execute him. 1Kings 2:8-9

**19:24-30** *The encounter with Mephibosheth.*

- 1) Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan met David next. vs. 24
  - a) It seems that he came down to meet the king, but did not meet with him till Jerusalem, according to the next verse, perhaps due to the crowds?

b) He presented himself in mourning, until David returned, his appearance being unkept. vs. 24

\* David had sought him out, due to his covenant with Jonathan. 2Sam. 9:1

- 2) David at Jerusalem questioned, why he had not fled with David? vs. 25
  - a) David had believed the lie of Ziba, that Mephibosheth rejoiced over Absalom's take over and that the house of his father would return to him. 2Sam. 16:1-3
  - b) David had promised all the inheritance of Mephibosheth to Ziba. 2Sam. 16:4
- 3) Mephibosheth revealed to David the deception and slander of Ziba. vs. 26-27
- 4) Mephibosheth was delighted to see David and commended himself to his judgment, seeing him as an angel of God. vs. 27

\* This was not flattery but genuine love and appreciation of David!
- 5) Mephibosheth acknowledged his unworthiness to sit at the king's table, his descendants being all dead, he had no complaints. vs. 28

\* Three times he states, "my lord the king". vs. 26, 27, 28
- 6) David perhaps seeing himself in an awkward place, to keep unity politically

makes a unjust judgment to divide the inheritance between the two. vs. 29

- 7) Mephibosheth was not affected by it at all, he was willing to let Ziba keep it all, seeing David was safe. vs. 30

**19:31-39** *The encounter with Barzillai.*

- 1) Then came Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim and went across the Jordan with the king, to escort him across the Jordan. vs. 31  
 \* Rogelm, meant place of fullers, a place in the highlands east of the Jordan.
- 2) Barzillai was a very elderly man, eighty years old and very rich and had provided the king with supplies at Mahanaim, when he fled from Absalom. vs. 32
- 3) David invited Barzillai to go with him to Jerusalem and he would care for him, in gratitude. vs. 33
- 4) Barzillai turned David down, in his offer. vs. 34-35
- a) He said he had few years left of life. vs. 34
- b) He declared his decrepit condition. vs. 35
- c) Barzillai identified himself as David's servant and would go a short distance past the Jordan, he needed no reward. vs. 36

- 6) Bazillai petitioned two things; that he might be permitted to return to die in his city and that David pass on his reward to Chimham, his son. vs. 37
- 7) David agreed to both conditions. vs. 38
- 8) They crossed over Jordan, David affectionately kissed Barzillai and they parted. vs. 39

**19:40-43** The contention between Israel and Judah.

- 1) David journeyed to Gilgal with Chimham, all the people of Judah escorting the king, and also half the people of Israel. vs. 40
- 2) The men of Israel accused those of Judah of stealing David away. vs. 41
- 3) The men of Judah responded claiming David was from their tribe and they served him for love, not food or gifts. vs. 42
- 4) The men of Israel said they had a greater right, being ten tribes and expressed their resentment of being held in contempt by them, but Judah prevailed. vs. 43  
 \* The unity of the kingdom is in jeopardy!

**20:1-26**     **The revolt of Sheba against David.**

**20:1-13** The rebellion took place at Jerusalem.

**20:1-2** *The unity of the nation by David was disrupted by Sheba.*

- 1) Sheba was the son of Bichri, a Benjamite and blew a trumpet announcing the division. vs. 1
  - \* Remember the tense division between Saul and David, prior to the monarchy.
- 2) The division took place between the north and the south, who remain faithful to David. vs. 2
  - a) Remember David was anointed king first by Judah, then by Israel, in Hebron. 2Sam. 2:3
  - b) He reigned over Judah for 7 1/2 years in Hebron and in Jerusalem he reigned for 33 years over all of Israel and Judah. 2Sam. 5:4

**19:3** *The concubines of David set aside.*

- 1) David arrived to Jerusalem and secluded his ten concubines Absalom had defile on the rooftop.
  - \* Ahithophel had given the council to Absalom. 2Sam. 16:21-22
- 2) David provided all their needs but had them lives, as in widowhood, the rest of their lives.

**20:4-13** *The disunity was magnified by Amasa.*

- 1) David commanded Amasa to gather the men of Judah to him, within three days and return to him. vs. 4
- 2) Amasa went but delay longer than the allotted time, so David realized he was a great danger and sent Abishai to kill him. vs. 5-6
- 3) Joab's men, with the Cherethites, the Pelethites, the king's bodyguards and all the mighty men, went to pursue Sheba. vs. 7
- 4) They encountered at the large stone which is in Gibeon, where Joab took charge and killed Amasa. vs. 8-10
  - a) Gibeon is 6 miles north-west of Jerusalem.
  - b) Remember Amasa was Joab's cousin.
- 5) The call to follow Joab and David was sounded out by one of Joab's men standing by Amasa's body and the pursuit continued. vs. 11-13

**20:14-22** The rebellion of Sheba was put down.

**20:14-15** *The pursuit of Sheba by Joab to Maachah.*

- 1) Joab went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel and Beth Maachah and all the Berites. and they also went after Sheba. vs. 14

\* A few miles from Tell-Dan, in the north, 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee.

- 2) They finally caught up with Sheba in the city in Abel of Beth Maachah and put a siege against it. vs. 15

**20:16-21** *The negotiation of Joab with a woman from Maacahah.*

- 1) A wise woman called out to speak to Joab to enquire why they wanted to destroy the city. vs. 16-19

\* Mother city, indicates a district capital on which other places were depending on.

- 2) Joab denied any ill intent but that he only sought Sheba, who raised up against David, so the woman, “Watch, his head will be thrown to you over the wall.” vs. 20-21

**20:22** *The execution of Sheba to deliver the city of Maacahah.*

- 1) The people executed Sheba by cutting off his head and casting it to Joab. vs. 22
- 2) The men returned to their own homes and Joab to David in Jerusalem. vs. 22

**20:23-26** The statesmen who served under David.

- 1) Joab was over all the army of Israel. vs. 23a
- 2) Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; the bodyguards of David and he also became Solomon’s and executed Joab. vs. 23b
- 3) Adoram was in charge of revenue; the treasury, over the labor force. vs. 24a

\*

- 4) Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder; the historian. vs. 24b
- 5) Sheva was scribe; the secretary of state. vs. 25a
- 6) Zadok and Abiathar were the priests. vs. 25b
- 7) Ira the Jairite was a chief minister under David, the principle officer.  
\* 2Sam. 8:16-18, 1Chron.18:14-17