

# THRU BIBLE

## 2 Samuel 20–22 | “David & the Giant Killers”

### I. THE REVOLT OF SHEBA. (20)

#### THE REVOLT (v. 1-2)

#### DAVID’S RETURN TO JERUSALEM (v. 3)

##### A. (v. 3)

1. ***“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 in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.”***

- a. Just as Absalom took the king’s harem to claim the throne (2 Sam. 16:22), so David is taking back his harem to reclaim his throne, yet he never had physical relations with them again because they had been defiled.

#### THE MURDER OF AMASA (v. 4-13)

##### B. (v. 4)

1. ***“Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and be thou here present.”***

- a. “Amasa”
  - 1) Amasa was appointed by Absalom to be his Chief General (2 Sam. 17:25), but since Joab killed Absalom against the direct order of David (2 Sam. 18:5, 12-17), David demoted Joab and

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appointed Amasa to be his Chief General (2 Sam. 19:13), also probably thinking it would be a good political move to bring the nation back together.

### C. (v. 6)

**1. “And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than did Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us.”**

#### a. “Abishai”

- 1) Abishai is David’s nephew, the son of Zeruah and Joab’s brother (1 Sam. 26:6).
- 2) He was a gnarly, tough guy, always wanting to fight and kill somebody! Often times, David had to tell Abishai to chill out!
  - a) He wanted to smite Saul while he was sleeping, but David told him to chill out because you don’t want to touch the LORD’s anointed (1 Sam. 26:6-9).
  - b) He helped Joab get revenge on Abner for killing because he killed their brother Asahel (2 Sam. 3:30).
  - c) He was a victorious leader in battle (2 Sam. 10:6-14)
  - d) He wanted to kill Shimei because he cursed David and threw rocks at him, so he said to David, “*Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee,*

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*and take off his head,”* and David told him to chill out. (2 Sam. 16:9-12)

e) Then, when David was on his way back to take the throne, Shimei came out and met him because he had cursed David, and Abishai said, “Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD'S anointed?” and David told him to chill out again (2 Sam. 19:21-22).

3) Often times, David had to tell Abishai to chill out, but not this time!!! Now he’s letting Abishai off the leash!

### THE DEATH OF SHEBA (v. 14-22)

### THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE DAVIDIC KINGDOM (v. 23-26)

#### D. (v. 23)

1. **“Now Joab was over all the host of Israel: and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and over the Pelethites:”**

a. *Joab* is again the COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF (2 Sam. 8:16), not Abishai.

b. *Banaiah* was still in charge of the SPECIAL FORCES (2 Sam. 8:18).

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- 1) The *Cherethites* and the *Pelethites* were branches of the Philistines, and they were elite mercenaries (2 Sam. 15:18).
  - a) These were the Special Ops guys (Navy Seals, Green Beret, Delta Force).
- 2) *Banaiah* would be the one to kill Joab and become the new Commander-in-Chief under Solomon (1 Kings 2:28-35; 4:4).

### E. (v. 24)

#### 1. “**And Adoram was over the tribute: and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder:**”

- a. *Adoram* was in charge of the DEPARTMENT OF FORCED LABOR.
  - 1) “tribute” - Heb. “revenue; body of forced laborers”
  - 2) He was not in the earlier list (2 Sam. 8:16-18), which indicates that this developed later in David’s reign.
  - 3) He will be stoned to death at the division of the kingdom (1 Kings 12:18).
- b. Jehoshaphat was still the SECRETARY OF STATE (2 Sam. 8:16).
  - 1) “recorder” - Heb. *mazkir* - “remembrancer; writer of chronicles”

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- a) This was someone that was to remind someone of something.
  - b) The modern Hebrew word for “*secretary*” comes from this particular word.
- 2) He brought State business to the king's attention and provided advice to the king.

### F. (v. 25)

#### 1. “**And Sheva was scribe: and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests:**”

- a. Sheva became the OFFICIAL CHRONICLER, which used to be Seraiah (2 Sam. 8:17).
  - 1) “*scribe*” - Heb. “*one who recounts, takes account of, and writes official documents*”
- b. Zadok and Abiathar were the SPIRITUAL ADVISORS.

### G. (v. 26)

#### 1. “**And Ira also the Jairite was a chief ruler about David.**”

- a. “*chief ruler*” - Heb. “*chief minister*”
  - 1) Ira was a close advisor to King David.
  - 2) **NOTE:** Before, David's sons were the chief ministers (2 Sam. 8:18), but I'm sure the rebellion of Absalom brought this change about.

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**EPILOGUE: APPENDICES TO THE DAVIDIC KINGDOM (2 Samuel 21-24)** - These chapters are NOT in Chronological order.

## II. THE FAMINE & DAVID’S GIANT KILLERS. (21)

### THE FAMINE (v. 1-14)

#### A. (v. 1)

1. ***“Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.”***

a. *“in the days of David”*

1) This 3-year famine was probably early in David’s reign, yet had to have been after David met Mephibosheth (v. 7).

#### B. (v. 3)

1. ***“Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD?”***

a. The word *“atonement”* is being used here because the Land is polluted because of unexpiated murder, and the execution will be based upon the Mosaic Law (Num. 35:31-33).

#### C. (v. 8)

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1. **“But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth;...”**
  - a. This Mephibosheth is not Jonathan’s son (v. 7), but Saul’s *other* grandson with the same name through his concubine Rizpah (2 Sam. 3:7).
  
2. **“...and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite:”**
  - a. This has been a difficult passage for some because it was not *Michal*, but her sister Merab that was married to *Adriel* (1 Sam. 18:19), and *Michal* had no children unto the day of her death (2 Sam. 6:23).
  - b. **Q** = So why does it say Michal “bore” sons to Adriel?...
    - 1) Some scholars see it as a scribal error in the copy of the Masoretic Text, but that the original Hebrew Text did say “*Merab*”.
      - a) There are 2 Hebrew manuscripts, and most ancient versions, read *Merab* instead of *Michal*.
    - 2) Other scholars believe that Merab may have died and that her sister Michal then raised the five boys as her own, and in ancient Hebrew culture, the woman that raises the child is considered the same as the one that “*bore*” the child.
      - a) The Hebrew word for “*brought up*” means “*to bear*”, which was often attributed to a person that helped raise the children.

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- i. In the Hebrew culture, women that help educate and nurse children are considered their mothers.
  - a. Cf. [Genesis 16:2; 30:3; Numbers 11:12; Ruth 4:16-17; Galatians 4:19](#)
  - ii. **NOTE:** Rabbinic tradition says that the five sons of Merab were orphaned and then raised by Michal.
- b) Jewish tradition says that Merab brought them forth, and Michal *brought them up*, therefore they were called by her name.

### DAVID’S GIANT KILLERS (v. 15-22)

#### D. (v. 15)

- 1. **“Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint.”**
  - a. This had to be at an earlier time AFTER the fall of Rabbah ([1 Chron. 20:4-8; 2 Sam. 12:26-31](#)), yet BEFORE the Absalom revolt ([2 Sam. 15](#)).

#### E. (v. 16)

- 1. **“And Ishbibenob, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David.”**



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- a. “which was of the sons of the giant”
  - 1) “the giant” - Heb. *Rapha*
    - a) Some wrongly assume that “the giant” refers to Goliath. The Hebrew word is *Rapha*, and is a proper name.
    - b) *Rapha* was an ancestor of the Rephaim (1 Chron. 20:4).
      - i. In the days of Noah, there were “giants” (Heb. *Nephilim*), which were a hybrid offspring of fallen angels and human women (Gen. 6:1-4).
      - ii. After the Flood, the 10 spies said that the Anakim were *Nephilim* in the land of Canaan (Num. 13:33), which was literally true, or they were just exaggerating.
      - iii. The Anakims were accounted as Rephaim (Gen. 14:5; 15:20; Deut. 2:20-22).
      - iv. **NOTE:** The Rephaim were a literal race of giants. Could they be Nephilim too? 🙄
  - 2) **NOTE:** Ishbibenob and his brothers mentioned are all called “the sons of *Rapha*,” and Lahmi is called “the brother of Goliath the Gittite” (1 Chron. 20:5). Thus, *Rapha* is also the father of Goliath, and these guys are all brothers!
    - a) **Q** = Could this be why David picked up “five smooth stones” from brook in the

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Valley of Elah (1 Sam. 17:40)??? Goliath had 4 brothers!!

### III. DAVID’S PSALM. (22)

#### A. (v. 1)

1. **“And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:”**
  - a. This psalm was written before David’s sin with Bathsheba and early in David’s reign.
  - b. **NOTE:** It is basically the same as [Psalm 18](#), with only a few differences.