

2 Samuel 20:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When he was removed out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

Analysis

When he was removed out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Sheba's Rebellion, emphasizing ongoing challenges to authority. Sheba's rebellion demonstrates that David's troubles continue despite Absalom's defeat. The wise woman's intervention prevents unnecessary bloodshed. Theological themes include ongoing resistance to God's appointed leader, the value of wisdom in crisis resolution, the danger of divisive rhetoric, and God's provision of unexpected solutions through unlikely people.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 20 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding ongoing challenges to authority provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of ongoing challenges to authority?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----|---------------------|-------|--------------------|----|---------|-------|------|
| כָּאֵשׁ | רַ | הָגָה | מִלְ | הַמִּסְלֵל | הַ | רַ | עַבְ | כָּל |
| H834 | | When he was removed | H4480 | out of the highway | | went on | H3605 | |
| | | H3014 | | H4546 | | H5674 | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-----------|----|---------|--------|---------|-----------|
| אַיִשׁ | וְ | בְּ | אַחֲרֵ | יְ | לְרַדֵּ | אַחֲרֵ | יְ | בְּכִרֵי: |
| all the people | after | Joab | to pursue | | after | Sheba | the son | of Bichri |
| H376 | H310 | H3097 | H7291 | | H310 | H7652 | H1121 | H1075 |

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