

# 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

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**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

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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

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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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

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כָּאֵשׁ ר	הִנֵּה	מִן	הַמַּסְלֵה ה	עָבַר ר	כָּל		
H834	When he was removed	H4480	out of the highway	went on	H3605		
	H3014		H4546	H5674			
אִישׁ	אַחֲרַי	יֹאב ב	לְרֹדֵף	אַחֲרַי	שֶׁבַע	בֶּן	בִּכְרִי׃
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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