

2 Samuel 20:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So every man of Israel went up from after David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah clave unto their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem.

Analysis

So every man of Israel went up from after David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah clave unto their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem.

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

וַיַּעַל	כָּל	וְאֵשׁ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֲחֵרֵי	דָּוִד	אֲחֵרֵי
went up	H3605	So every man	of Israel	and followed	David	and followed
H5927		H376	H3478	H310	H1732	H310
שֶׁבַע	בֶּן	בִּכְרִי	וְאֵשׁ	יְהוּדָה	וְדָבָר	בְּמֶלֶךְ
Sheba	the son	of Bichri	So every man	of Judah	clave	unto their king
H7652	H1121	H1075	H376	H3063	H1692	H4428
מִן	הַיַּרְדֵּי	וְעַד	יְרוּשָׁלַם:			
H4480	from Jordan	H5704	even to Jerusalem			
	H3383		H3389			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 11:23 (Parallel theme): Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

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