

2 Samuel 20:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.

Analysis

Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וַתָּבֹא	הָאִשָּׁה הַ	אֵל	כָּל	הָעָם	בְּחָכְמָתָהּ	
went	Then the woman	H413	H3605	unto all the people	in her wisdom	
H935	H802			H5971	H2451	
וַיִּכְרֹת וְ	אֶת	רֹאשׁ	שֶׁבַע	בֶּן	בִּיחְרִי	וַיַּשְׁלֵךְ אֵל
And they cut off	H853	the head	of Sheba	the son	of Bichri	and cast
H3772		H7218	H7652	H1121	H1075	H7993
וַיֹּאבָב	וַיִּתְקַע	בְּשַׁפָּר	וַיִּסְּצוּ	מֵעַל	הָעִיר	
And Joab	And he blew	a trumpet	and they retired	H5921	from the city	
H3097	H8628	H7782	H6327		H5892	
אֵשׁ	לְאֹהֶל יוֹ	וַיֹּאבָב	שָׁב	יְרוּשָׁלַם	אֵל	הַמֶּלֶךְ:
every man	to his tent	And Joab	returned	to Jerusalem	H413	unto the king
H376	H168	H3097	H7725	H3389		H4428

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 7:19 (Parallel theme): Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

2 Samuel 20:1 (Parallel theme): And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel.