

# 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

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**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

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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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וַיַּבְאֵ	וְאֲשֶׁ	אֵל	כָּל	כָּל	מִ	כִּי	בְּחִכְמַת	הָ	בְּחִכְמַת	הָ	בְּחִכְמַת	הָ
went	Then the woman	H413	H3605	unto all the people	H5971	in her wisdom	H2451					
H935	H802											
וְאֶל	וְאֶל	אֶת	רַאשְׁתָּ	שֶׁבֶעְ	בֶּן	בֶּן	בְּכִרְיָה	כִּי	וְאֶל	וְאֶל	וְאֶל	וְאֶל
And they cut off	the head	H853	H7218	of Sheba	H7652	the son	H1121	of Bichri	H1075	and cast	H413	
H3772										H7993		
וְיָוָא	וְיָוָא	בְּ	וְיָזַקְעַ	רְ	בְּשִׁפְךָ	וְ	וְ	מִעַל	מִעַל	מִעַל	מִעַל	מִעַל
And Joab	And he blew	H3097	H8628	a trumpet	H7782	and they retired	H6327		H5921	from the city	H5892	
וְיָוָא	וְיָוָא	בְּ	לְאַפְלָל	וְ	שֶׁבֶעְ	מִ	אֶל	וְיָוָא	וְיָוָא	וְיָוָא	וְיָוָא	וְיָוָא
every man	to his tent	H376	H168	And Joab	H3097	returned	H7725	to Jerusalem	H3389	H413	H4428	

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.