

# 2 Samuel 20:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.

## Analysis

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**And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.**

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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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## 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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בָּ א	וְ דָוִד	אֶל	בֵּית	יְרוּשָׁלַם	וָקָח	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֵת
came	And David	H413	the house	at Jerusalem	took	and the king	H853
H935	H1732		H1004	H3389	H3947	H4428	
עֲשָׂרָה	נָשִׁים	פְּלִגְשֵׁי	אֲשֶׁר	הֵנִיחַ	לְשָׁמֹר	בֵּית	
the ten	women	his concubines	H834	whom he had left	to keep	the house	
H6235	H802	H6370		H3240	H8104	H1004	
וַיָּבֵא	בֵּית	מִשְׁמַחֲתָם	וַיִּכְלֹךְ	וְאֵלֶיהָ	לֹא	בָּ א	
and put	the house	them in ward	and fed	H413	H3808	came	
H5414	H1004	H4931	H3557			H935	
וְתֵהָּ יָנָה	צָרָה	עַד	יּוֹם	מֵתָהּ			
H1961	unto them	So they were shut up	H5704	unto the day	H4194		
	H6887			H3117			
חַיָּתָהּ:	אֶלְמָנָה	וְ					
living	in widowhood						
H2424	H491						

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 15:16** (Kingdom): And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, which were concubines, to keep the house.

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