

# 2 Samuel 20:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than did Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us.

## Analysis

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**And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than did Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us.**

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 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**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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לֹא יְאֹתֶר שָׁתַּחַת הַאֲבִישׁ יְאֹלֶה יְהוָה יְהוּנָה!

**said** And **David** H413 **to Abishai** H6258 **do us more harm** H0

H559

H1732

H52

H3415

H0

אֶת כֵּן אֶתְתָּה אֶבְשָׁל וּמָן בְּכֶרֶת שָׁבַע בֶּן בְּכֶרֶת!

**Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri than did Absalom take**

H7652

H1121

H1075

H4480

H53

H859

H3947

H853

לֹא יְגַדֵּעַ יְהוָה מֵאֶתְתָּה!

**servants thou thy lord's and pursue after him lest he get**

H5650

H113

H7291

H6435

H4672

H0

עִירֵינוּ וְהַצְּלָל בָּצָר וְתַעֲרֵי מָ

**cities him fenced and escape us**

H5892

H1219

H5337

H5869

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 1:33** (References Lord): The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon:

**2 Samuel 21:17** (References David): But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David sware unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel.

**2 Samuel 11:11** (References Lord): And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.