

The King Returns

2 Samuel 20: 1-26

- The happiness of D's homecoming is overshadowed by a new rebellion.
- We see the results of D's rash and unwise decisions.

1. Homecoming – v. 1-3

- 1: trumpet: here blown to start a rebellion; later (22) to end hostilities. Today: reveille and taps.
- Sheba's actions result of the events at the end of Ch. 19. Sheba's mercy lasted longer than his rebellion.
- 2: all the men: Northern Ten Tribes that complained. Lit. from following D to Sheba.
- D returned with his Judean escort to find all of Israel in open rebellion.
- 3: providing here nothing more than that of the average prisoner.

2. Murder – v. 4-13

- Nephew of D, son of D's sister Abigail, father was an Ishmaelite, 1C 2:13-17. Should be an easy first assignment for Amasa.
- 5: why the delay? Willis: 1] did not see need to hurry; 2] did not know how to summon troops; 3] men of Judah lost confidence in him; D sends Abishai to get Sheba.
- 6: an insult to Joab; servants = bodyguards
- 7: Abishai is commander, but Joab was the real leader: soldiers had all trust in Joab.
- 8: Joab prepared for this meeting; possibly let a sword fall to trick, let him think nothing is wrong & then grabbed another sword.
- 9,10: sword in left hand, probably concealed in sleeve until needed.
- 10: Joab 1st mentioned, in control of army.
- 12: no wonder they all stopped; the leader of the army lay there in a pool of blood.

3. Wisdom – v. 14-22

- 14: Sheba rallied no on but kinfolk; Abel (city): extreme N boundary of Israel; DeHoff: supposed to be capital of Abilene in Lk. 3:1.
- 16: woman: probably prophetess and a witch; she is credited with ending the rebellion and saving the city from destruction.

4. List – v. 23-26

- This closes the history of D's reign. Ch. 21-24 form an appendix.

- 23: Joab seized control through murder. D knew the kind of man Joab was, but he needed that kind of leader right then.
- Forced labor is not used in 8:16-18 but it is used here.
- 26: priest: an official in gov't, not an actual priest
- D never forgave Joab for Absalom's murder; yet Joab must be recognized as the military architect and for sustaining D's throne.

Lessons:

1. D finally had a wonderful homecoming to Jerusalem when the coast was clear. Christians can always have the opportunity to "return home" by repenting of their sins.
2. Joab was angered at Amasa for being the new commander of the Army; to fix his problem, he murdered Amasa. Murder never fixes a problem!
3. Joab acted like a friend when he saw Amasa. Jesus was betrayed by a friend. Today, Satan will try any way to deceive and destroy us.

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