

I. Introduction and review.

II. Divisions among the tribes leads to another revolt. 19:40-20:2

- A. As David is returning to Jerusalem, the tribes bicker. 19:40-43**
- 1. Those from the ten northern tribes of Israel accuse the men of Judah of kidnapping David. v. 41**
 - 2. Those from Judah respond defensively and the quarrel intensifies. v. 42-43**
- B. David's failure to lead wisely contributes to the problem.**
- 1. He stirs up tribal rivalry. 19:9-14**
 - 2. He appears to do nothing to reconcile the bickering tribes. v. 40-43**
- C. Sheba leads a revolt among the Northern tribes of Israel. 20:1-2**
- 1. Another "worthless fellow" (son of Belial) is causing trouble. 16:7 23:6
I Sam. 1:16 2:12 10:27 25:17,25 30:21**
 - 2. The fickle people who claimed ten shares in David now claim none. 20:1 19:43**
 - 3. They are breaking their covenant with David. 5:3 2:1ff**
 - 4. The same northern tribes will use the same words when the kingdom is more permanently divided under Jeroboam. I Ki. 12:16**
- D. Such quarrels occur today among the people of God. Gal. 5:15,20 Js. 4:1ff**
- 1. Many of our divisions are not over substantial matters of doctrine and practice, but because of human pride. Acts 6:1**
 - 2. Professing Christians employ some of the same sinful tactics in their disputes.**
 - a. We quarrel over insignificant matters.**
 - b. We are offended by some perceived slight. v. 41**
 - c. We impugn the motives of others. v. 41**
 - d. We can become defensive. v. 42**
 - e. We use provocative words, returning evil for evil. v. 43 Rom. 12:17,19**
 - 3. We can overcome quarrels with grace.**
 - a. Refuse to continue the quarrel. Pr. 17:14 20:3 15:18 II Ti. 2:24**
 - b. Choose to overlook perceived offenses. I Pe. 4:8 Pr. 19:11 16:32**
 - c. Rather than assuming the worst motives, assume the best. I Cor. 13:7**
 - d. Give a gentle answer, speaking kindly and carefully. Prov. 15:1 Eph. 4:29**
 - e. Do good to those who hurt you. Rom. 12:20-21**
 - f. Pursue peace. Heb. 12:14a**
 - 4. The same principles apply in the family, at work and in government.**
- E. Respect the authorities God has placed over you. Heb. 13:17 Rom. 13:1ff**
- 1. When Christians quarrel there is always a Sheba ready to take advantage.**
 - 2. Revolutions often take place not because a mass of people had deep convictions, but because clever, ambitious leaders wanted to assume authority for themselves.**
 - 3. Is it ever right to leave a church? Heb. 13:17**
- F. These principles also point us to Christ.**
- 1. Jesus calls us to be peacemakers. Mt. 5:9 Ro. 12:18**
 - 2. Jesus, when reviled, did not retaliate, but entrusted Himself to God. I Pe. 2:23**
 - 3. Jesus died to unite His people. Eph. 2:11ff 4:1-6**
 - 4. He has been appointed by God to rule, but many reject His authority.**

III. The rebellion is put down. 20:3-26

- A. David shuts up his concubines who had been violated by Absalom. v. 3 16:20-21 12:11
1. David never should have multiplied his wives to begin with. Deut. 17:17
 2. Why does David isolate them? 3:6-7 I Ki. 2:21ff
 3. They are among the many victims of David's sin.
 4. What hope do such women have? Isa. 54:4-5 25:8 61:1
- B. David wants to act quickly against Sheba. v. 4-7
1. First he sends Amasa to rapidly raise an army. v. 4-5 19:13
 2. When Amasa delays, David sends Abishai. v. 6-7
- C. Joab murders Amasa and resumes command of David's army. v. 8-12
1. Amasa finally shows up. v. 8a
 2. Joab treacherously assassinates Amasa. v. 8b-10 Judges 3:21 I Sam. 17:35
 3. Joab's assault on Amasa is also an assault upon David who appointed Amasa.
 4. Joab is a cold blooded killer. 3:27 18:14-15 11:14ff
 5. Yet Joab is loyal to David and does what is necessary to protect his throne.
 6. The troops support Joab. v. 11-12
- D. Sheba's revolt is quickly quashed. v. 13-22
1. Joab lays siege to the city of Abel where Sheba had sought refuge. v. 13-15 11:1
 2. A wise woman appeals tactfully to Joab. v. 16-19 14:2 Deut. 20:10
 3. She persuades the people of Abel to kill Sheba, thus ending the siege. v. 20-22
 4. Like other wise women, she rescues her people. I Sa. 25:14ff Jdg 4:1ff
 5. We never learn her name. Ecc. 9:14-16
- E. Israel returns to normal. v. 22b-26
1. When Joab returns in triumph, David does not try again to remove him. v. 23
 2. But later David calls upon Solomon to bring Joab to justice. I Ki. 2:5-6,28-35
 3. This is like the list of David's officials which concluded the last major section of II Samuel. 8:15-17 I Ki. 4:1-6
 4. God's kingdom still stands in spite of David's sin, David's enemies and even David's flawed subordinates.
- F. How do we apply the lessons learned from these events?
1. Jealousy is dangerous and destructive.
 2. Are there Joabs in the church?
 3. Wicked Joabs may prosper, but the meek will inherit the earth. Psalm 37 Mt. 5:5
 4. We should appreciate the strong, wise women among us. Pr. 31:11,26 Acts 18:26
 5. The wise woman of Abel exemplifies biblical peacemaking principles. Phil. 2:3-4
- G. How does this section point us to Christ?
1. Does Joab's greeting to Amasa bring to mind another murderous kiss? Lu. 22:47f
 2. One man dies to save the lives of many. John 11:50 Rom. 5:19
 3. Mankind continues to rebel against God's authority.
 4. Those who reject God's authority will ultimately be brought to justice.
 5. God's kingdom will continue despite all of the sins, failures and rebellions of mankind. Mt. 16:18

IV. Concluding Applications.

Discussion questions

1. How does the argument between the tribes of Israel mirror quarrels which can take place in the church and in our homes?
2. How can we act to make peace when quarreling is taking place?
Are you in the midst of a dispute? What can you do to end it?
3. Why is Sheba's revolt so wrong?
4. When are we free to go against those in authority?
5. Why does David shut up his concubines? 20:3
Why do you think this is recorded in the Bible?
6. How should David have dealt with Joab?
Why do you think David failed to bring Joab to justice?
7. What biblical peacemaking principles are displayed in the wise woman of Abel?
8. How can we show respect to our wise women in the church and in the home?
9. Where in this passage do we see Christ?