

The Trials of Building a Kingdom

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2 Samuel 19:41-20:26

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A Brief Review

- David is fixing his kingdom after Absalom's rebellion^{25:16-18}
- Judah & Israel received David back^{25:19}

David Returned to Kingship

- Argument among tribes of who got to escort David home^{25:19:41-43}
- This is the way of the world – arguments over pride, etc.
- David had reached pinnacle of greatness^{25:8:15} but sin had marred that...

Rebels Love Unrest

- Amidst the quarreling, Sheba took opportunity^{20:1}
- Infighting among God's people led to further division by enemy
- David returns to Jerusalem facing unrest per Nathan's words^{25:12:10}

Repairing What He Could

- v3 placed to show us David is seeking to restore wrongs done to concubines
- David had sinned^{Dt17:17}, his sin affected others^{25:12:10-12}, David was repairing

The Brewing Rebellion

- The rebellion must be dealt with so he calls Amasa who replaced Joab
- Amasa delays, so Abishai is sent⁶... Joab still has influence⁷ and went out!
- At Gibeon, Amasa came to meet them... Joab 'greeted' Amasa by killing him!
- Joab's violence strikes again, left Amasa in blood in the road
- Body has to be moved because it caused rubber neckers
- Joab was loyal to David but used any means – not David's [God's] ways
- David never confronted Joab's insubordination passed to Solomon^{1K2:5-6}
- Apply: we must do God's work using God's ways. Galatians 5:19-24

The Showdown

- Sheba travels way north to Abel of Beth-maacah, Joab besieged Abel
- a wise-woman came out to negotiate peace^{Dt20:10-11} with Joab
- Joab's ironic reply '*far be it from me that I should swallow up or destroy*'²⁰,
- Woman tells Joab that Sheba's head shall be thrown over the wall²¹
- So Joab and army wait... over the wall comes Sheba's head²²... siege ended
- Everyone returned home and Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king

The Narrator's Summary

- Summary: *Now Joab was in command of all the army of Israel*²³
- Contrast w/ previous summary at pinnacle of David's kingdom^{25:8:15}
- David may be king, but now Joab's pragmatism rules not justice & equity

Lessons:

- This passage to give us hope & encouragement^{Rom15:4-5}
- David was at peak^{25:8:15} serving God but chose to despise God's Word^{25:12:9}
- We must be careful not to be pragmatists but doers of God's Word
- James 1:22; Mt 6:31-33; Rom 12:1-2; Prv 3:5-6
- We need to be so careful because we are but human Isa 55:8-9
- We need God's better King Jesus who saves us & enables us to live for Him!