

Message #27**II Samuel 19:41-20:26**

It would sure be nice if life were easy for believers. It isn't. It is hassle after hassle. Life won't be easy until Jesus Christ is back here in Person in charge of the whole world or until we are in heaven. Until then there are problems.

It has been many years since David's fall. That fall had affected him. He didn't think right at times as a leader. But he came to terms with the sin. He confessed it and resolved it and now God was in the process of restoring him to honored King.

He had most of the support of the nation Israel, and he had most of the support of Judah. So one would think this will be simple. It is not. God restores David, but it is a hassle.

What we see in this chapter is this:

GOD RESTORES DAVID AS RESPECTED KING BY THE WAY HE HANDLES VARIOUS SITUATIONS AND HASSLES WITH PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT HIM AND WHO DON'T SUPPORT HIM.

David will again function right. He will honor his friends and destroy his enemies. This is a fascinating chapter and it shows what happened when David came back to Jerusalem to become king.

There are six narrative actions that occur in this chapter:

RESTORATION HASSLE #1 – There is strife between Judah and Israel. **19:41-43**

Just as soon as good things started to happen to David, there is a hassle. David had crossed over the Jordan and as soon as he did he was confronted by all the men of Israel who want to know why he was being taken home by those from Judah. Apparently, the Israelites wanted to lead him back, but David let those from Judah bring him across the Jordan.

Well the men from Judah said he is one of us. He is from the tribe of Judah. He is one of us. Well the Israelites responded that we have ten shares or ten tribes to support the king.

So what we now have is both groups realizing David is king, but they are fighting over who gets to do what.

This was a critical issue because things are just getting resolved in the fact many had supported Absalom.

RESTORATION HASSLE #2 – Sheba causes Israel to rebel against David. **20:1-2**

When God is sovereignly working out His will for a person's life, there will be troublemakers.

The adage never let a good crisis go to waste is not new to our political world. Sheba saw this as an opportunity for his own political gain. He saw the tension between Israel and Judah and decided to make his move.

The northern tribes had, generally speaking, supported Absalom, not David, and there was a high ranking military commander for Israel named Sheba, who was about to take the lead in the rebellion against David.

Verse 1 says he was a “worthless fellow.” He was the son of Bichri, a Benjamite. Being a Benjamite, he was on the side of Saul and not David. So here he arrogantly and defiantly blew a trumpet and announced that they were not joining David, and that all of Israel should return to their tents and refuse to have anything to do with him.

So according to **verse 2**, all the men of Israel turned from following David and started following Sheba, the son of Bichri. He was not about to submit to David as king and he did his best to undermine him. In fact, he was leading a revolt against David.

But David was God’s choice of king and what he would learn is that he was cutting his own throat.

RESTORATION HASSLE #3 – David sends out his men to get Sheba. 20:3-7

Now I am completely convinced that God is sovereign over every bit of this, and part of the reason He permits this is because these hassles will actually cause David to begin to fire on all cylinders as a leader. Ever since the sin episode years earlier, he has not been as razor sharp as his mind once was. He gets back on track here.

According to **verse 3**, when David first came to his house in Jerusalem, the first thing he did was to take care of the ten concubines he had left. These women had been raped by Absalom (II Sam. 16:22) and they had been humiliated. So David wanted to make certain they felt safe and cared for.

David would not be intimate with them again. They lived out their days as widows, well provided for and well-guarded.

Once David had done that, he immediately went to work on tracking down Sheba. David needed to quickly get on top of the revolt.

According to **verse 4**, David told Amasa to call out the men of Judah and meet me here in three days. Remember Amasa had been Absalom’s military commander, whom David appointed to be his new commander (19:13).

According to **verse 5**, Amasa started gathering up the men, but he was not operating within the time frame David had given him. It was like he was dragging his feet. David sensed something wasn’t right with Amasa.

So in **verse 6**, David appointed Abishai to pursue Sheba. Now you would think David would have gotten Joab to go after him. It may be that David was still upset that Joab had acted apart from his orders and killed Absalom.

So Abishai took Joab's men and the mighty men and headed out to track down Sheba (**v. 7**).

RESTORATION HASSLE #4 – Joab murders Amasa. 20:8-13

David's military headed NW into Benjamin's territory and they came to Gibeon, seven miles away from Jerusalem. It was there where Amasa showed up to meet them.

Now Amasa had not followed through with his assignment and it did not go over well with the other leaders, especially Joab.

Joab was dressed for war. According to **verse 8**, he had on his military attire with a belt and sheath or scabbard, in which he carried his sword.

According to **verses 9-10**, when Joab saw Amasa, he greeted him and took him by the beard with his right hand to kiss him on the cheek and in his left hand he had his sword and he stabbed him in the belly and he died.

Joab was probably motivated by a couple of factors:

- 1) He had replaced Joab as the commander of David (19:13).
- 2) Joab believed that Amasa was a traitor.

According to **verse 11**, with Amasa now dead, Joab became the commander. So Joab and his brother Abishai resumed the mission to track down Sheba.

Apparently, Amasa did not die quickly. According to **verse 12** the men saw him wallowing in his own blood. They removed him from the road and then had a moment of silence for him and then according to **verse 13**, they pursued Sheba.

RESTORATION HASSLE #5 – Joab tracks down and destroys Sheba. 20:14-22

According to **verse 14**, Sheba was on the run. After he convinced the Israelites to not support David, he had another problem. He had to convince them to fight against David, who had just beaten them.

He passed through the land of the Benjamites, trying to gain support for his cause. Ultimately he came to Abel Beth-maacah, which was located about 30 miles north of the Sea of Galilee.

According to **verse 14**, he was able to get some men to rally around him.

According to **verse 15**, Joab and his military tracked them to the city and they were bashing down the walls. They built a siege ramp of packed earth that would lead right up to the top of the wall.

Joab and his men had surrounded the city. As Joab and his forces were attacking the city, a wise woman asked to speak with Joab (v. 16).

According to **verse 17**, Joab went to meet with the woman who asked him to listen to her.

She shared that this had been a place where people came to seek wisdom (v. 18). She said we are peaceful and faithful people so why would you want to destroy us (v. 19).

Joab said I am not interested in destroying you or your city, but I am after one traitor man whose name is Sheba, who has lifted up his hand against King David. He said hand him over and we will be gone (**verses 20-21a**).

Well the woman said we will do better than that, we will cut off his head and throw you his head. The woman went in and told the people and they did just that. They cut off the head of Sheba and threw it to Joab, and he blew the trumpet and they left (**verses 21b-22**).

RESTORATION HASSLE #6 – King David has his key men governing as officials in his kingdom. **20:23-26**

Now as things are just getting going for David, we are again given a list of leaders who were key to his administration. It is interesting that David's first appointment of key administrators included his sons (II Sam. 8:18). This is no longer the case.

(Person #1) - Joab was the military commander over the whole military. **20:23a**

(Person #2) - Benaiah was over the foreign mercenaries who guarded the king—Cherethites and Pelethites. 20:23b II Sam. 8:18; 15:18. When Joab died, Benaiah became the military commander (I Kings 2:35).

(Person #3) - Adoram was over forced labor of the non-Israelites. **20:24a**

(Person #4) - Jehoshaphat was a recorder responsible for keeping records of key information. **20:24b**

(Person #5) - Sheva was a scribe who also wrote down key data. **20:25a**

(Person #6) - Zadok was a priest. **20:25b**

(Person #7) - Abiathar was a priest. **20:25c**

(Person #8) - Ira was a priest to David. **20:26**—only mentioned here and nowhere else in Scripture.

What God was doing with these hassles is bringing David back to be the honored king. To be an honored king, one must make decisions and these things forced him to do that.