



# A BETTER KING

## A SERIES IN 2 SAMUEL



### 2 Samuel 19:40-20:26 – The Corrupted Kingdom

January 7, 2024

What were the qualities of David's restored kingdom?

#### 1. David's restored kingdom was characterized by fighting and bickering.

And King David sent this message to Zadok and Abiathar the priests: "Say to the elders of Judah, 'Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his house, when the word of all Israel has come to the king?'" 2 Samuel 19:11 (ESV)

The king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him. All the people of Judah, and also half the people of Israel, brought the king on his way. 2 Samuel 19:40 (ESV)

##### A. In conflict, assume the best about people, not the worst.

Then all the men of Israel came to the king and said to the king, "Why have our brothers the men of Judah stolen you away and brought the king and his household over the Jordan, and all David's men with him?" 2 Samuel 19:41 (ESV)

##### B. In conflict, act humbly, not defensively.

All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "Because the king is our close relative. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we eaten at all at the king's expense? Or has he given us any gift?" 2 Samuel 19:42 (ESV)

##### C. In conflict, learn to overlook an offense.

And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, "We have ten shares in the king, and in David also we have more than you. Why then did you despise us? Were we not the first to speak of bringing back our king?"... 2 Samuel 19:43a (ESV)

##### D. In conflict, refuse to speak insulting words.

...But the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel. 2 Samuel 19:43b (ESV)

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. Proverbs 19:11 (ESV)

...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:2-3 (ESV)

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV)

## E. Conflict allows the devil an opportunity to do his work.

Now there happened to be there a worthless man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjaminite. And he blew the trumpet and said, "We have no portion in David, and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to his tents, O Israel!"  
2 Samuel 20:1 (ESV)

So all the men of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah followed their king steadfastly from the Jordan to Jerusalem.  
2 Samuel 20:2 (ESV)

...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3 (ESV)

...do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.  
Ephesians 4:26–27 (ESV)

## 2. David's restored kingdom had many who suffered after sin.

And David came to his house at Jerusalem. And the king took the ten concubines whom he had left to care for the house and put them in a house under guard and provided for them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up until the day of their death, living as if in widowhood. 2 Samuel 20:3 (ESV)

Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.' " 2 Samuel 12:11–12 (ESV)

- When we sin, others will suffer. Often, those closest to us suffer the most.

## 3. David's restored kingdom had a Deep State.

Then the king said to Amasa, "Call the men of Judah together to me within three days, and be here yourself." 2 Samuel 20:4 (ESV)

So Amasa went to summon Judah, but he delayed beyond the set time that had been appointed him. 2 Samuel 20:5 (ESV)

And David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom. Take your lord's servants and pursue him, lest he get himself to fortified cities and escape from us." 2 Samuel 20:6 (ESV)

And there went out after him Joab's men and the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men. They went out from Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.  
2 Samuel 20:7 (ESV)

When they were at the great stone that is in Gibeon, Amasa came to meet them...  
2 Samuel 20:8a (ESV)

...Now Joab was wearing a soldier's garment, and over it was a belt with a sword in its sheath fastened on his thigh, and as he went forward it fell out. 2 Samuel 20:8b (ESV)

And Joab said to Amasa, "Is it well with you, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. 2 Samuel 20:9 (ESV)

But Amasa did not observe the sword that was in Joab's hand. So Joab struck him with it in the stomach and spilled his entrails to the ground without striking a second blow, and he died. Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri. 2 Samuel 20:10 (ESV)

And one of Joab's young men took his stand by Amasa and said, "Whoever favors Joab, and whoever is for David, let him follow Joab." 2 Samuel 20:11 (ESV)

And Amasa lay wallowing in his blood in the highway. And anyone who came by, seeing him, stopped. And when the man saw that all the people stopped, he carried Amasa out of the highway into the field and threw a garment over him. 2 Samuel 20:12 (ESV)

When he was taken out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri. 2 Samuel 20:13 (ESV)

"Moreover, you also know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, how he dealt with the two commanders of the armies of Israel, Abner the son of Ner, and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed, avenging in time of peace for blood that had been shed in war, and putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist and on the sandals on his feet. Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace. 1 Kings 2:5-6 (ESV)

## **4. David's restored kingdom abused power instead of caring for people.**

And Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel of Beth-maacah, and all the Bichrites assembled and followed him in. 2 Samuel 20:14 (ESV)

And all the men who were with Joab came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maacah. They cast up a mound against the city, and it stood against the rampart, and they were battering the wall to throw it down. 2 Samuel 20:15 (ESV)

Then a wise woman called from the city, "Listen! Listen! Tell Joab, 'Come here, that I may speak to you.' " And he came near her, and the woman said, "Are you Joab?" He answered, "I am." Then she said to him, "Listen to the words of your servant." And he answered, "I am listening." 2 Samuel 20:16-17 (ESV)

Then she said, "They used to say in former times, 'Let them but ask counsel at Abel,' and so they settled a matter. 2 Samuel 20:18 (ESV)

I am one of those who are peaceable and faithful in Israel... 2 Samuel 20:19a (ESV)

...You seek to destroy a city that is a mother in Israel. Why will you swallow up the heritage of the LORD?" 2 Samuel 20:19b (ESV)

Joab answered, "Far be it from me, far be it, that I should swallow up or destroy!" 2 Samuel 20:20 (ESV)

That is not true. But a man of the hill country of Ephraim, called Sheba the son of Bichri, has lifted up his hand against King David. Give up him alone, and I will withdraw from the city." And the woman said to Joab, "Behold, his head shall be thrown to you over the wall." 2 Samuel 20:21 (ESV)

Then the woman went to all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri and threw it out to Joab. So he blew the trumpet, and they dispersed from the city, every man to his home. And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king. 2 Samuel 20:22 (ESV)

*“When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it.”  
Deuteronomy 20:10 (ESV)*

## 5. David’s restored kingdom was a corrupt kingdom.

Now Joab was in command of all the army of Israel; and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was in command of the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and Adoram was in charge of the forced labor; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was the recorder; and Sheva was secretary; and Zadok and Abiathar were priests; and Ira the Jairite was also David’s priest. 2 Samuel 20:23–26 (ESV)

So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder, and Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Seraiah was secretary, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David’s sons were priests. 2 Samuel 8:15–18 (ESV)

### A. David was not in charge.

So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people. Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army... 2 Samuel 8:15 (ESV)

### B. Slave labor was introduced.

...and Adoram was in charge of the forced labor;... 2 Samuel 20:24a (ESV)

*My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”... Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam hurried to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. 1 Kings 12:14b+18 (ESV)*

## Application

1. David was a man after God’s own heart, but he was a sinful man like the rest of us. God’s people needed a better king. The good news is we have a better king. His name is Jesus. His kingdom isn’t filled with corruption.
2. As citizens of Jesus’ kingdom, we are to live as citizens of a holy kingdom, not as citizens of a corrupt worldly one.

## Life Group Questions

---

1. **Read 2 Samuel 19:40-20:16.** What was surprising in this chapter?
2. What can we learn about the source of conflicts and how to avoid them from 2 Samuel 19:40-20:2?
3. 2 Samuel 20:3 tells us about David’s wives living in widowhood until their dying day. Why do you think this is the first thing the narrator tells us about as soon as David returns to Jerusalem?
4. Sheba was an outward rebel against David, but Joab was an inward rebel. Compare these men. How can we pretend loyalty to our king but live as if we are the king?
5. When Joab and his men attack Abel of Beth-maacah, what does the simple solution proposed by the wise woman tell you about Joab’s character? How can we be guilty of acting like a Joab in our conflicts?
6. Compare David’s corrupted kingdom in 2 Samuel 20:23–26 to his righteous kingdom in 2 Samuel 8:15–18. What are the differences? What does this teach us about why we need Jesus as our king?