



## **2 Samuel - Chapters 15 to 20**

**4 more Studies**

**[Part 4]**

## OUTLINE OF THE BOOK—

### A. Triumphs of David (2 Samuel 1-10)

- i. David mourns the deaths of Saul & Jonathan (2 Sam 1)
- ii. David make king over Judah (2 Sam 2)
- iii. Civil war (2 Sam 3)
- iv. Ish-Bosheth, son of Saul killed (2 Sam 4)
- v. David, king over all Israel (2 Sam 5)
- vi. David's attempts to bring the ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam 6)
- vii. God's covenant to build the house of David (2 Sam 7)
- viii. David consolidates his kingdom (2 Sam 8)
- ix. David befriends Mephibosheth (2 Sam 9)
- x. David wars against Ammon and Syria (2 Sam 10)

### B. Troubles of David (2 Samuel 11-24)

- i. David's two great sins (2 Sam 11)
- ii. Nathan faces David with his sins; David repents, (2 Sam 12)
- iii. David's daughter Tamar raped by Amnon, David's son; Amnon murdered by Absalom, David's son, (2 Sam 13)
- iv. David permits Absalom to return with half-hearted forgiveness, (2 Sam 14)
- v. Absalom rebels against David (2 Sam 15)
- vi. Ziba, Mephibosheth's servant, deceives David; Shimei curses David (2 Sam 16)
- vii. Absalom's advisers disagree on attack against David (2 Sam 17)
- viii. Absalom slain and David mourns (2 Sam 18)
- ix. David restored to throne (2 Sam 19)
- x. Sheba revolts against David (2 Sam 20)
- xi. Three years of famine; Gibeonites take vengeance on house of Saul; war with Philistines (2 Sam 21)
- xii. David's song of deliverance (2 Sam 22)
- xiii. David's last words; David's mighty men (2 Sam 23)
- xiv. David's sin in taking census (2 Sam 24)

## Study 1 - 2 Samuel 15:1-16:14 - David has to flee

(Sermon on 11-Oct-20)

### Read 2 Samuel 15:1-4

1. What scheme does Absalom come up with? Why?
  - a. *He buys a chariot and has 50 men to run before him. Why? To attract attention. The chariot was not for speed to get around but to look good.*
  - b. *He placed himself at the city gate and as people came to put their case to the King - he would create dissatisfaction with David's government by saying there was no one there to hear their case; and he suggested things would be different if he were judge of the land. Why? To gain popularity and to increase dissatisfaction in King David's government.*
  - c. *He promoted the idea that he would give better justice than his father David. This idea was easy to foster because when Amnon had raped Tamar; David had taken no action; and when Absalom had taken matters into his own hands and killed Amnon, he had to leave town. Even when Absalom returned, David kept him at a distance.*

### Read 2 Samuel 15:5-6

2. What scheme does Absalom come up with? Why?
  - a. *He projected "a man of the people" image by being friendly to all and greeting them with a hug and a kiss. Why? To increase his popularity. He succeeded; he stole the hearts of the people.*
  - b. *His approach was subtle; he didn't directly criticize David; he worked hard, he sympathized with the people who had a complaint or who were troubled; he offered a solution the people wanted to hear; i.e. someone who were judge in their favour. He told the people what they wanted to hear.*

### Read 2 Samuel 15:7-12

3. How long has Absalom been working on his plan?  
*For 4 years. Some translations say 40 years but this is more likely to be Absalom's age at the time.*
4. What "vow" does Absalom ask that he can fulfil?  
*Absalom appeals to David's spirituality and says that he made a vow to worship God in Hebron, if God allowed him to return to Jerusalem. He knew the*

*appearance of spirituality would work in his favour. Sometimes we can justify our actions as being God's will or purpose for us; when perhaps they're not. Sadly, David's last words to Absalom were "go in peace"*

5. What is Absalom really up to?

*His real plan is to become king. He sent secret messengers to all the tribes to say "when you hear the trumpets, say Absalom is king in Hebron".*

6. How does Absalom's conspiracy gain strength, in verse 12?

*He gains the support of David's counsellor, Ahithophel.*

7. Who is Ahithophel? Check out whose grandfather he is?

*Ahithophel was one of the wisest men in Israel. His advice was always seen to be tip-top. He is also the grandfather of Bathsheba; and perhaps he'd been waiting for an opportunity to betray David; after wrecking his granddaughter's marriage and having her husband (Uriah) killed!*

8. What is encouraging for Absalom, at the end of verse 12?

*Absalom's popularity and following kept increasing. People can be like sheep; they follow the latest fad or trend; even if it's not right!*

### **Read 2 Samuel 15:13-18**

9. What news does David receive and what does he decide to do?

*David is told that the hearts of the people are with Absalom and against David. David decides that he and his entire household must flee Jerusalem or they won't survive.*

10. Who are the Kerethites, Pelethites and the Gittites? What irony is there in the fact that these men were loyal to David?

*Kerethites were foreigners from Negev (desert) region of Judah - see 1 Sam 30:14. They were very loyal to David.*

*Pelethites - another ethnic group that were very loyal to David.*

*Gittites - were faithful followers of David - who had followed David from Gath, Philistine territory.*

*Ironically, it is foreigners that rally around David at this low point in his reign.*

11. How would David be feeling at this time? (cf. Psalm 3:1-6; Psalm 41; Psalm 55:4-8; Psalm 61, 62, 63)

*Psalm 3 - David sees the Lord as his shield and he will not fear because the Lord is with him*

*Psalm 41 - He prays for the Lord's mercy and expects the Lord to deliver him from his enemies.*

*Psalm 55:4-8 - His heart is in anguish, he is full of fear and trembling, and wishes he had the wings of a dove and could flee far away.*

*Psalm 61 - A prayer to God to increase the days of his life and protect him*

*Psalm 62 - David finds rest and salvation from God*

*Psalm 63 - David earnestly seeks God - he prays day and night - he prays his enemies will be destroyed - and he will rejoice in the Lord.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 15:19-23**

12. What do you make of the loyalty of Ittai, the Gittite? Does it remind you of another story? (cf. Ruth 1:16-17)

*Ittai's loyalty is amazing. See v21 - wherever the king maybe, whether it means life or death, Ittai, his servant, will be with him.*

*Should remind us of Ruth's loyalty to her mother-in-law, Naomi, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."*

*Jesus demands that sort of loyalty from us!*

13. What preparation has David had for such a time as this?

*Remember, David had been on the run from Saul for many years; this was perfect training for such a time as this.*

*God prepares us in the same way!*

### Read 2 Samuel 15:24-26

14. What amazing thing does David do in these verses?

*Zadok the priest and the Levite tribe were with David. And they had the ark of the covenant. They offered sacrifices to God until everyone left the city.*

*David then told Zadok to take the ark back to Jerusalem.*

*He then says amazingly - if he finds favour in God's eyes - God will allow him to return to Jerusalem to see the ark in the sanctuary but if God is not pleased with him, then David is ready to die - he puts his life in God's hand and God will do whatever seems good to Him.*

*David is trusting in God - not in the ark. The ark was not some 'lucky charm'. David put his fate in God's hands.*

### Read 2 Samuel 15:27-29

15. Why did David send Zadok the priest back to Jerusalem?

*As a man of God, Zadok may gain supernatural insight that might be valuable to King David.*

### Read 2 Samuel 15:30-31

16. Whose steps is David tracing in verse 30? (cf. Matt 26:30-46)

*When Jesus went from the Last Supper to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, He essentially traced these same steps of David. Both David and Jesus suffered for sin, but Jesus suffered for our sins and David suffered for his own.*

*David wept as he climbed the Mount of Olives.*

*This shows David was a redeemed man. Some would say that God let David off easy - that he deserved the death penalty for adultery and murder. If God forgave him and spared David that penalty, surely David would just do it again. Those who think this way do not understand how grace and forgiveness work in the heart of the redeemed. David's sin was ever before him - and in a strange combination of deep gratitude and horror over his forgiven sin, David never did it again.*

17. What news is David told in verse 31? How does he react?

*David hears that his chief adviser and counsellor, Ahithophel, has gone over to Absalom's side. David prayed that the Lord would turn Ahithophel's advice into foolishness!*

*Pray is a powerful tool.*

*Mary, Queen of Scots, said she feared the prayers of John Knox more than all the assembled armies of Europe!*

**Read 2 Samuel 15:32-37**

18. What plan does David come up with?

*David came up with the plan of sending his aide, Hushai, back to Absalom to pretend to be Absalom's servant, with the idea of frustrating Ahithophel's advice to Absalom.*

**Read 2 Samuel 16:1-4**

19. What good fortune does David receive?

*He is met by Ziba who has a string of donkeys for the King's household to ride and food to refresh everyone from their journey through the wilderness.*

20. Who is Ziba?

*Ziba is the servant of Mephibosheth (Jonathan's son and Saul's grandson)*

21. What do we find out about Mephibosheth? Is this surprising? (cf. 2 Samuel 19:24-30)

*We find out that Mephibosheth seems to favour Absalom and that he is against David, hoping now that his grandfather's kingdom can be restored to him.*

*This does seem surprising, even hard to believe; as David had shown Mephibosheth great kindness back in 2 Samuel 9. We'll find out later that Ziba was lying about Mephibosheth (see 2 Samuel 19:24-30).*

22. How does David react?

*David takes Ziba's words at face value and he reacts just how Ziba hoped he would; giving all that belonged to Mephibosheth to Ziba.*

**Read 2 Samuel 16:5-14**

23. What does Shimei do?

*Shimei (a member of Saul's family) threw stones and cursed David, calling him a murderer; and very much supporting Absalom!*

24. How does David receive this treatment? Why do you think that is? (cf. v12)  
*Joab's brother Abishai wants to cut off Shimei's head.*

*But David says no - he's reasoning is that his own son, Absalom, is trying to kill him, so why should he worry about some guy, like Shimei, cursing him; and perhaps God has told Shimei to do this! And anyway what Shimei is saying is untrue, David had always treated Saul and his family with respect and what happened to Saul was brought up on by Saul himself. But, Shimei is right that God had brought these events upon David though, but not for the reasons that Shimei thought.*

*Instead of retaliating against Shimei; David says in the key verse - verse 12 - It may be that the LORD will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today." David knew the Lord's hand governed the future as well as the present. David relied on God's covenant and knew that if he continued to do right in the present, God would make good out of this bad situation. God has a knack of doing that - bringing good out of bad. (e.g. Joseph in Egypt; Esther in Persia; Jonah in the big fish; Daniel's friends in the furnace; Daniel in the lions' den; Jesus' death on the cross)*

**Read Romans 8:28 and Hebrews 12:4-11**

25. **Optional question:** What do these passages have to do with 2 Samuel 15:1-16:14?

**Romans 8:28** - *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

**We know that all things work together for good:** *God's sovereignty and ability to manage every aspect of our lives is demonstrated in the fact that all things work together for good to those who love God, though we must face the sufferings of this present time (Romans 8:18). God is able to make even those sufferings work together for our good and His good.*

**All things:** *God is able to work all things, not some things; all things - the good, the bad and the ugly. He works them for good together, not in isolation. This promise is for those who love God in the Biblical understanding of love, and God manages the affairs of our life because we are called according to His purpose.*

## Hebrews 12:4-11

### God Disciplines His Children

<sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,  
<sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines the one, he loves,  
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."

<sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. <sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! <sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

God disciplines us because he loves us, just like earthly parents discipline their children. David was disciplined by God here in this chapter.

As Hebrews 4:11 says - discipline doesn't seem pleasant at the time but instead rather painful, as David can vouch for. However, later on it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace as we submit our lives to God, as David did here.

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 15:1-16:14?

- a. God disciplines David (us) for a while
- b. David trusts God will look upon his misery and restore to him, His covenant blessings (16:12). In other words, David trusts God can and will make good out of this bad situation.
- c. Trust God through the good, the bad and the ugly.



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

- a. *David's suffering prefigures Jesus' suffering in the garden and on the cross.*
- b. *David trusts God will remember his covenant blessing. God remembered his covenant blessing in the form of the new covenant of Jesus' blood and death on the cross - because He loves us. And God turned the bad of Jesus' death into the good of Good Friday!*

**➔** How does this passage **apply to your life?**

*Accept God's discipline and trust God in all things - remembering that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him and have been called according to his purpose.*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*2 Sam 15:30 - David tracing Jesus' steps on Mount of Olives*

*2 Sam 16:12 - God will make good out of bad*

*Rom 8:28*

*Heb 12:11*

**Finish in prayer:** Thanking God for His discipline and praising Him that He can turn bad into good.

## Study 2 – 2 Samuel 16:15-18:18 – Broad is the road that leads to destruction

(Sermon on 18-Oct-20)

### Read 2 Samuel 16:15-19

1. Remind yourself of who Hushai is. What is he up to?

*Hushai is David's confidant.*

*Hushai butters up Absalom saying he will serve Absalom just like he served his father; after all the Lord and the people have chosen Absalom.*

2. Why did David think it necessary to send Hushai? (cf. 2 Samuel 15:32-34)

*Back in chapter 15 (vv32-34) Hushai had wanted to leave Jerusalem with David but David sent him to Absalom to pretend to be loyal towards Absalom. The idea was to both spy on Absalom and also give him bad advice.*

### Read 2 Samuel 16:20-23

3. Remind yourself of who Ahithophel is. What advice does he give? Why?

*Ahithophel is Bathsheba's grandfather and also David's chief adviser and counsellor.*

*He advised Absalom to sleep with his father, David's concubines.*

*Why? So that all Israel will hear about this and that Absalom has made himself obnoxious to his father; this will make the supporters of Absalom even more resolute.*

4. What does Absalom do and should we be surprised? (cf. 2 Samuel 12:11-12)

*He sleeps with all of his father, David's, concubines.*

*We shouldn't be surprised as 2 Samuel 12:11-12 says:*

*<sup>11</sup> "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. <sup>12</sup> You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"*

5. What are we told about Ahithophel's advice in verse 23?

*Ahithophel's advice was like inquiring of God's wisdom.*

6. What do you think of Ahithophel 's advice here? Remind yourself what David prayed in 2 Samuel 15:31.

*It doesn't seem like the wisest advice.*

*It was an act of immorality and of treason.*

*Ahithophel also can't afford for Absalom to fail, since he has betrayed David by swapping sides.*

*It also shows the heart of Ahithophel as he is prepared to allow this despicable act; he doesn't care about Israel and perhaps has revenge in his heart towards David, after what happened to his granddaughter, Bathsheba.*

*The advice is foolish and vindictive.*

*Remember what David prayed in 2 Samuel 15:31*

*Now David had been told, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom."*

*So, David prayed, "LORD, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness."*

**Read 2 Samuel 17:1-4**

7. What advice does Ahithophel give?

*His advice was to choose 12,000 men and attack - and strike down King David. By striking down the King, the people will then come to Absalom.*

8. How is it received?

*The plan seemed good to Absalom and the elders of Israel.*

**Read 2 Samuel 17:5-10**

9. How does Hushai's advice differ to Ahithophel 's advice?

*Hushai says Ahithophel's advice is not good.*

*He says that David and his men are fierce and experienced fighters.*

10. What is Hushai's reasoning?

*He suggests that David is very experience.*

*David will hide in a cave and he may well attack first and dishearten Absalom's men, no matter how brave they are.*

**Read 2 Samuel 17:11-14**

11. What does Hushai advise?

*He advised Absalom gather all of Israel.*

*This would take some time and buy David time.  
He also advised that Absalom lead the battle in person.*

12. What is Hushai doing to Absalom by giving this advice?

*Hushai is tickling Absalom's ego.*

*He could prove he was a mighty soldier like his father.*

*In Ahithophel's plan - Ahithophel led the battle.*

*In Hushai's plan - Absalom led the battle.*

13. Verse 14 is a key verse here. What do we learn about God here?

*Absalom and all the men of Israel preferred Hushai's advice rather than Ahithophel's advice.*

*This is remarkable since Ahithophel's advice was seen as being like God's wisdom (2 Samuel 16:23)*

*Here we see that:*

- 1. God answered David's prayer to make it seem like Ahithophel's advice is foolish*
- 2. God is sovereign control of all things - and nothing is impossible for him*
- 3. Whatever God's plans and purposes are, they always come to pass.*
- 4. Even when humankind goes their own way; they cannot escape God.*
- 5. We see that God's plan and purpose for David - was not to destroy David but to correct him*

### **Read 2 Samuel 17:15-16**

14. What plan does Hushai come up with?

*Hushai told the priests, Zadok and Abiathar about the conflicting advice from himself and Ahithophel; and he tells them to send a message to David to warn him; to cross the river Jordan at once. This would give David time to regroup before Absalom's attack.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 17:17-22**

15. Who are Jonathan and Ahimaaz?

*Jonathan is son of the priest Zadok and Ahimaaz is son of the priest Abiathar.*

*They were given the job of telling David.*

*But they were spotted and Absalom was informed.*

16. How are they preserved?

*They went to a house of a man in Bahurim (a village east of Jerusalem on the road to the Jordan Valley)*

*They climbed down the man's well and his wife covered the well opening with grain, so no one would be any the wiser.*

17. How is David warned and what does he do?

*Once the coast was clear, Jonathan and Ahimaaz climbed out of the well and warned David.*

*So, David and all the people with him crossed the river Jordan*

**Read 2 Samuel 17:23**

18. Why did Ahithophel commit suicide?

*Ahithophel did not kill himself over hurt feelings because his counsel was rejected. Instead, he was wise enough to know that under Hushai's plan Absalom would fail and Ahithophel would be implicated in the conspiracy. He knew all was lost.*

19. **Discuss:** Is suicide an unforgivable sin?

*Even Christians can be at such a low point in their lives, that they can commit suicide.*

*Suicide is not an unforgiveable sin; as Romans 8:38-39 says:*

*<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*The unforgiveable sin is described in Mark 3:20-29 and it's not suicide.*

*<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. <sup>21</sup> When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."*

*<sup>22</sup> And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons, he is driving out demons."*

*<sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. <sup>27</sup> In fact, no one can*

*enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."*

*Charles Spurgeon makes this observation about this passage in 2 Samuel...*

*"Thousands set their houses in order, but destroy their souls; they look well to their flocks and their herds, but not to their hearts' best interests. They gather broken shells with continuous industry, but they throw away priceless diamonds. They exercise forethought, prudence, care, everywhere but where they are most required. They save their money, but squander their happiness; they are guardians of their estates, but suicides of their souls." (Spurgeon)*

### **Read 2 Samuel 17:24-29**

20. Identify all the places mentioned in 2 Samuel 16:15-18:15 on the map in Appendix 1.

*Red circle - Mahanaim*

*Blue circle - Lo Debar and Rogelim*

*Brown circle - Forest of Ephraim.*

21. As Absalom crossed the Jordan, what do you think David's plan is?  
*To lead Absalom into a trap.*

22. What support does David get?

*Help from Shobi from Rabbah; Machir from Lo Debar and Barzillai from Rogelim; as well as food.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 18:1-5**

23. What strategy does David use?

*He mustered men with commanders over thousands and over hundreds.*

*Very well organized.*

*He splits his army into 3 groups:*

*Under Joab, Abishai and Ittai.*

24. What reasons can you think of for David not entering into this battle?

3 reasons:

- a. His life was more valuable - he is worth ten thousand of us (v3)
- b. He can be more help by bringing in reserves from the city (v3)
- c. They understood it would be difficult for David to fight against his own son

25. What command does David give the 3 captains of the armies in verse 5?  
Why?

*Be gentle with the young man, Absalom.*

*Why? For David's sake as his father.*

**Read 2 Samuel 18:6-8**

26. How does the battle go?

*20,000 men of Israel were killed by David's men in the Forest of Ephraim.*

**Read 2 Samuel 18:9-18**

27. How is Absalom killed? Where's the irony in this?

*Absalom's hair got caught in the thick branches of a tree and he was left hanging in mid-air.*

*The irony is a) his hair was his pride and joy but became his downfall; his glory became his curse! b) he only cut his hair once per year; if only his hair was shorter!*

28. How does Joab disobey David's orders? What do you think Joab's reasoning is here?

*Joab disobeyed David's direct orders to protect the young Absalom for my sake. Joab knew how indulgent David was with his sons; Joab thought it best for Israel and for David that Absalom be gone.*

*10 of Joab's armour bearers finished Absalom off. Ironic in that there Absalom defiled 10 of David's concubines.*

29. Why do you think Joab disposes of Absalom's body as he does, especially in the light of verse 18?

*Joab didn't want Absalom memorialized as an inspiration to any of Absalom's followers or future rebels.*

*V18 shows the pride of Absalom in erecting a monument for himself.*

30. 2 Samuel 14:27 says Absalom had 3 sons and verse 18 here says he has no sons? How do we reconcile this?

*We can presume that his 3 sons died before him.*

### Read Matthew 7:13-14

31. How does this relate to our passage from 2 Samuel 16:15-18:18?

*<sup>13</sup> "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

*Absalom went through the wide gate because he was proud and ambitious and wanted the prestige of being king. The wide gate seemed very attractive as he was so handsome and so popular - he grew in stature and fame. He thought he had it made. But he forgot to obey God and he dishonoured his father.*

*This wide attractive gate led to his destruction.*

*Absalom worshipped himself not God.*

*A lesson for us.*

*The narrow gate is for us to go through, by trusting God and obeying Him; knowing that this narrow gate leads to Heaven and eternal life.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 16:15-18:18?

- *Pride comes before a fall.*
- *The wide road leads to destruction - don't follow it.*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

*Jesus is the way to eternal life - follow him - not ourselves.*

➔ How does this passage **apply to your life?**

*God is in control of everything - don't forget it!*

*God's ways are not our ways; and God's ways are better than our ways.*

*Worship God - not ourselves.*

*Follow God's ways not our ways.*

*Take the narrow gate that leads to eternal life.*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

**2 Samuel 17:14**

*<sup>14</sup> Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Arkite is better than that of Ahithophel." For the LORD had determined to frustrate the good advice of Ahithophel in order to bring disaster on Absalom.*

**Finish in prayer:** Thanking God for His sovereignty in all things. And praising Him that His ways are not like our ways and His ways are higher than our ways.

**Study 3 - 2 Samuel 18:19-19:43 - David mourns and returns to Jerusalem**  
**(Sermon on 25-Oct-20)**

**Read 2 Samuel 18:19-27**

1. Who are the two "runners" that go to tell David the news of Absalom's death?

*The two runners are Ahimaaz (son of the priest Zadok) and a Cushite (Cush was son of Ham, son of Noah. Cush is often identified as Ethiopia)*

2. Why doesn't Joab want Ahimaaz to go?

*Joab wanted to spare Ahimaaz from being the bearer of such bad news for the King; that his son had died.*

*Also, the person who informed David that Saul had been killed; didn't survive!*

3. What assumption does David make in verse 27?

*Assumption in v24 - the runner is alone; therefore, it must be good news.*

*Assumption in v27 - because the watchman identified one of the runners as Ahimaaz, and Ahimaaz is a good man; then it must be good news.*

**Read 2 Samuel 18:28-33**

4. What was David's only concern? Why?

*His only concern is that his son, Absalom, is alive. Why? Because he loves Absalom so much.*

*As King, David should have been concerned about his nation too.*

*The bond of love between a child and a parent is a strong bond.*

*As is the bond of our Heavenly Father and His children!*

5. What's the difference between the two messengers?

*Ahimaaz was a great runner but a poor messenger. The first job of a messenger is to get the message right; not say "I saw great confusion...but don't know what it was?" (verse 29). It's likely Ahimaaz intended to tell David about Absalom being killed; but when David's first question was "Is the young man, Absalom safe?"; Ahimaaz couldn't bring himself to deliver the message, as he knew Joab had broken David's direct order, not to harm Absalom.*

6. How did the Cushite break the news of Absalom's death to David? Should we be surprised by Absalom's death? (cf. 2 Samuel 12:10)

*The Cushite delivers the news in a subtle way: "The Lord has vindicated you today by delivering you from the hand of all [including Absalom] who rose up against you".*

*The Cushite had no qualms in telling David because he was oblivious to David's order not to harm Absalom.*

*See 2 Samuel 12:10: Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'*

7. How does David receive the news of Absalom's death?

*David is deeply moved or shaken by his son's death.*

*David knew that a) he had been an overindulgent parent and b) this was all a consequence of his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah.*

*He went to his room and wept.*

8. **Ponder:** Do the words "***If only I died instead of you***", in verse 33, resonate with you?

*It should remind us of what Jesus did. He died instead of you and me!*

*David could not die instead of Absalom but Jesus did die instead of every rebellious sinner.*

*When someone says "If only I died instead of you", it shows just how strong the relationship is/was.*

**Read 2 Samuel 19:1-8**

9. What effect does David's grief have on his loyal supporters?

*David's grief for his son, made the men of the army feel ashamed (v3) even though they had won the battle; they crept into the city as though they had fled from a battle, not been victorious.*

10. How does Joab confront David and what ultimatum does he give?

*Joab tells David he has humiliated his men and David has made it clear to them that he would prefer it, if Absalom was alive and they were all dead! He says you love the one who hated you and hate those who love you. Is that how a King should be?*

*Joab tells David to go and encourage his men or by nightfall, he won't have any men left and this will be an even worse calamity for David than anything he has endured before.*

*That was a huge wake up call to David!*

*Mourning can take a long time; e.g. Queen Victoria for her husband, Albert.*

*As King, David has to consider the nation and his kingdom as well as his family. (e.g. The TV series 'The Crown', makes it clear to the Queen and the Royal Family, that the Crown (Kingdom/Queendom) is more important than anything else!*

11. How did Joab's rebuke of David work?

*When the men were told that David was sitting in the gateway to the city; they all gathered and came before him.*

*The fact that David came and sat at the gateway showed the men, their service was appreciated.*

*Joab cared enough to say what needed to be said; and David took it on board.*

**Read 2 Samuel 19:9-14**

12. What are the tribes of Israel arguing about in verses 9-10? In what way are they fickle?

*Remember even though David survived Absalom's attempt to overthrow him; David has not yet been restored as King.*

*The tribes were in dispute about whether they should bring the King back.*

*They understood what David had done for them in the past (particularly against the Philistines) but they also understood they had rejected him, for Absalom.*

*Now that Absalom is dead; what should they do?*

*They were fickle in the sense that they only wanted David back now because Absalom's false kingship failed!*

13. What plea does David make to his own tribe, Judah?

*David did not force his reign on Israel.*

*He particularly appealed to his own tribe; saying 'will you be the last tribe to bring me back?'*

*He even makes Amasa commander of his army, instead of Joab; to put Joab in his place (after all he did disobey orders in killing Absalom) and also by making Amasa commander it would help to appease Absalom's supporters; as Absalom made Amasa commander of his army.*

14. How does this work out?

*He won the hearts of the men of his own tribe, Judah, so that they were of 'one mind'*

**Read 2 Samuel 19:15-18a**

15. How does David return and what welcome does he receive?

*David came as far as the Jordan and was then met by the men of Judah at Gilgal. He was also met by 1000 Benjamites (Saul's tribe). He is welcomed back in style.*

**Read 2 Samuel 19:18b-23**

16. What had Shimei previously done to David? (cf. 2 Samuel 16:5-14)

*Shimei (a strong supporter of Saul) had previously cursed David and called him a murderer.*

17. What does Shimei ask for in 2 Samuel 19:18b-20?

*He apologizes for his sins against David and asks for forgiveness*

*It was a heartfelt and sincere apology. His apology was not just words - it had actions, as he was the first to come and welcome David back!*

18. What does Abishai want to happen to Shimei? What does David do and why?

*Abishai wants Shimei put to death for cursing the Lord's anointed.*

*He tells Abishai this matter has nothing to do with him and that David is the King. He also tells Shimei he will not die!*

*David shows a better way; he forgives others as God has forgiven him.*

*Luke 7:47 - Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."*

19. **Ponder:** How are we like Shimei?

*Like Shimei we are guilty, but spared because of Jesus.*

*Our sin has cursed God's anointed, King Jesus - just like Shimei cursed God's anointed, David.*

*Spurgeon says: Perhaps you have been like Shimei, who cursed king David, and you are afraid that Jesus will never forgive you. But David forgave Shimei, and Jesus is ready to forgive you. He delighteth in mercy. I do believe that the harps of heaven never give to Christ such happiness as he has when he forgives the ungodly, and saith, 'Thy sins are forgiven; go in peace.'*

20. Remind yourself what Mephibosheth was "alleged" to have done in **2 Samuel 16:1-4**.

*Mephibosheth's servant, Ziba, alleged that Mephibosheth had abandoned David and favoured Absalom.*

**Read 2 Samuel 19-24-30**

21. What does David learn about Mephibosheth? What does he decide to do? *Mephibosheth explains to David that Ziba deceived him and took off without him and that Ziba has also slandered him. Mephibosheth says he doesn't deserve anything but leaves it in David's hands.*

*On hearing the whole story, David didn't go back on his promise to Ziba even though it was made under fraudulent circumstances. Yet he did lessen Ziba's reward by offering a split between Ziba and Mephibosheth of all the property from Saul's house.*

22. **Ponder:** What can we learn from Mephibosheth's loyalty and words in verse 30?

*Mephibosheth is happy to have nothing as long as he has His King home safely. We basically have all we need in King Jesus. He is all we need!*

**Read 2 Samuel 19:31-38**

23. Who is Barzillai (cf. 2 Samuel 17:27) & what kindness is shown to him? Why? *Barzillai had helped David back in chapter 27 when David arrived at Mahanaim.*

*David offers to bring Barzillai to Jerusalem and care for him.*

*Barzillai was old (80) and won't accept anything from David, but accepts it on behalf of his son, Kimham.*

*Barzillai was a man of great resources - and he wisely used those resources to support the servant of God and the cause of God. In Luke 12:21, Jesus spoke of the foolish man who laid up treasure for himself and was not rich towards God.*

*Barzillai was wise enough to use his resources to lay up treasure in heaven and he was rich toward God, by being rich towards God's anointed, David.*

*God is no man's debtor (Rom 11:25; Hebrews 6:10)*

**Read 2 Samuel 19:39-43**

24. What argument develops between the 10 tribes of Israel (north) and the 2 tribes of Judah (south)? What is the argument from both sides?

*The other 10 tribes complained that Judah stole David away.*

*Judah argued that David is a close relative of theirs.*

*The 10 tribes argued that they have 10 shares in the King!*

25. What potential problem might this argument cause in the future? (cf. 2 Samuel 20:1-2 and 1 Kings 11-12)

*This might lead to an eventual split in the Kingdom.*

*The Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel.*

26. **Read John 10:11 and John 15:13** and compare how this might relate to 2 Samuel 18:33?

*2 Samuel 18:33 - The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you--O Absalom, my son, my son!"*

*John 10:11 - "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"*

*John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

*Sacrifice and substitution*

*We can show this same love and sacrifice to others.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 18:19-19:43?

*Salvation and redemption for David*

*David shows great mercy, forgiveness and grace in this section: Absalom, Joab, Shimei, Israel, Ziba and Miphiboseth.*

*We have been forgiven a lot; so we too can forgive others.*

*We can also see how it points to King Jesus!*

 If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?  
*2 Sam 18:33 - David offering to die in Absalom's place - is exactly what Jesus did for us! David didn't have to do it though, because Absalom was dead; Jesus did!. David's weeps over Absalom - Jesus weeps over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41)*

**➔** How does this passage **apply to your life?**

- a. Can we show the same mercy, forgiveness and grace that David does here?*
- b. Mephibosheth is content to just have King David in his life. We should be the same with King Jesus in our lives.*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

*2 Sam 18:33*

**Finish in prayer:** Thanking God that Jesus died our death that we might go free from punishment of our sins and receive forgiveness and eternal life.

## Study 4 – 2 Samuel 20:1-26 – Sheba rebels against David

(Sermon on 01 -Nov-20)

### Read 2 Samuel 20:1-2

1. How is Sheba described?

*He is described as a troublemaker.*

*The Hebrew word [beliyaal] means: wicked, evil, ungodly, worthless, good for nothing.*

*He is a Benjamite (Saul's tribe)*

2. What is the basis of Sheba's rebellion? (cf. 2 Samuel 19:40-43)

- a. *Following on from the last chapter - where the 10 tribes had argued with the other 2 tribes (Judah and Benjamin) as to who had shares in David. The 10 tribes had felt excluded by Judah (David's own tribe). So here, Sheba says they (10 tribes) don't have a share in David*
- b. *They have no part in Jesse's son which devalued David's humble background - as not being worthy of being a King*
- c. *He went his own way and influencing many others [every man to his tent] to do the same*

*Basically, Sheba is taken advantage of the instability brought about by Absalom's rebellion*

3. What is the outcome of Sheba's catch-cry?

*The catch-cry "we have no share in David, no part in Jesse's son" was very effective; all of the men of Israel departed David to follow Sheba; but the men of Judah remained loyal to their king.*

### Read 2 Samuel 20:3

4. What did David do? And why? (cf. 2 Samuel 16:20-23)

*He put his 10 concubines which Absalom had slept with, in 2 Samuel 16, in seclusion. David no longer had sexual relations with them nor did he offer them to anyone else to marry.*

*Why? Even though not their fault, they had been defiled by Absalom so David could no longer sleep with them, and could not be offered to other men in marriage as this might have been dangerous for the state and David's position. Therefore, sadly, they lived as widows until their death.*

*This was a consequence of both David and Absalom's sin; and it shows how a person's sin can affect innocent parties.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 20:4-7**

5. What does David ask Amasa to do? How does that work out?

*David told Amasa to muster the men of Judah within 3 days to deal with Sheba; knowing that it was important not to delay in dealing with this rebellion, as he had done with Absalom's rebellion,*

*This didn't work out well, as Amasa delayed in following David's orders.*

6. What course of action does David decide to take instead? Why?

*So, David summoned Abishai (Joab's brother) to muster David's men and Joab's men and all the mighty warriors to pursue Sheba.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 20:8-10**

7. What does Joab do to Amasa? Why? (cf. 2 Samuel 17:25)

*Amasa was slow in mustering the troops but turned up for the pursuit.*

*Joab held Amasa's beard (a sign of a friendly welcome) and caught Amasa unawares and stabbed him in the belly and killed him.*

*Why? Because David had installed Amasa as commander of the army instead of Joab.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 20:11-14**

8. How does the death of Amasa help Joab?

*With Amasa's body dragged to the side of the road.*

*Everyone followed Joab as their commander and leader.*

*Which was also an advantage to David as Joab, although ruthless and ambitious, is loyal to David.*

9. Find the locations mentioned in the map in appendix 2.

*Green circle is Jerusalem*

*Blue circle is Gibeon*

*Red circle is Abel Beth Maakah*

### **Read 2 Samuel 20:15-22**

10. How does the wise woman help the matter to be resolved quickly?

*The wise woman facilitated a speedy end to the siege of the town that Sheba was seeking refuge in, namely Abel Beth Maakah. She promised Joab, she would hand over Sheba's head to Joab, so that the town would not be besieged.*

11. What happens to Sheba? Why?

*The people of Abel Beth Maakah cut off his head and gave it to Joab.*

*Why? To prevent their town from being besieged and thus ending Sheba's rebellion.*

### **Read 2 Samuel 20:23-26**

12. What do we learn about David's military administration and help?

- a. *Joab remained commander of Israel's army even though he regained the position by murdering Amasa.*
- b. *David's elite ethnic groups men, the Kerethites and the Pelethites were commanded by Benaiah*
- c. *Adoniram was in charge of forced labour*
- d. *Jehoshaphat was recorder (recording the events of David's kingship)*
- e. *Sheva was secretary or scribe*
- f. *Zadok and Abiathar were the High Priests responsible for sacrifices*
- g. *And Ira was David's personal priest - chaplain*

*The greatness of David's kingdom was not built upon David's abilities alone.*

*He had an affective and trustworthy team around him.*

*The unity of the team was key!*

13. What do we learn about David's spiritual help?

*Even David, a man after God's own heart and the writer of many of the Psalms needed spiritual and devotional help. No one should think they are above spiritual help, no matter what position they are in,*

14. How important is unity?

**Psalm 133?**

*David sees God's people living together in unity as a good and pleasant thing. He likens this unity as being like a special occasion when the High Priest (Aaron) is set apart.*

*He also likens it to the dew of Hermon in the north of Israel some how falling on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. The picture he is envisaging is Israel being so close that these places are brought together*

**Mark 3:23-29 (cf. Matthew 12:22-32)**

*Jesus says a house divided against itself cannot stand (like Israel in David's time and following).*

**John 17:11, 21-23?**

*Jesus wants his disciples to be "one" as God the Father and God the Son are. Jesus wants the disciples to be "in" the Father and Son, so that they may be brought to complete unity*

**Romans 12:16; 15:5-7**

*Romans 12:16 - God wants us to live in harmony with one another; not to be proud; and willing to associate with people of low position; and not to be conceited. This will achieve complete unity.*

*Romans 15:5-7 - God wants us to have the same attitude of mind toward each other that Jesus had; and to be of "one mind" and "one voice" so that we can glorify God the Father. God also wants us to accept one another as Jesus accepted us. The goal being to bring praise God (not ourselves).*

**1 Corinthians 1:10**

*God wants us to agree with one another, in Christ; so that there are no divisions amongst us; but instead we are perfectly united in mind and thought.*

**2 Corinthians 13:11**

*God wants us to strive for full restoration; encourage one another, being of one mind and live in peace.*

**Ephesians 4:1-3**

*God wants us to live a life worthy of our calling (as Christians). This means being humble, gentle, patient, and bearing one another in love. And we must*

*make every effort to keep the unity of the Holy Spirit; through the bond of peace.*

Philippians 2:1-11

*God wants us to imitate Jesus' humility.*

*Having the same mindset as Jesus; who made Himself nothing to become a servant and sacrificially die on a cruel cross for us.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Samuel 20:1-26?

*The importance of unity and the danger of disunity and division*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

*Jesus brought peace between God the Father and humankind.*

*David as a type of Christ - brought all of Israel together in unity - as Christ brings us together in unity.*

➔ How does this passage **apply to your life**?

What do we need to change in our lives?

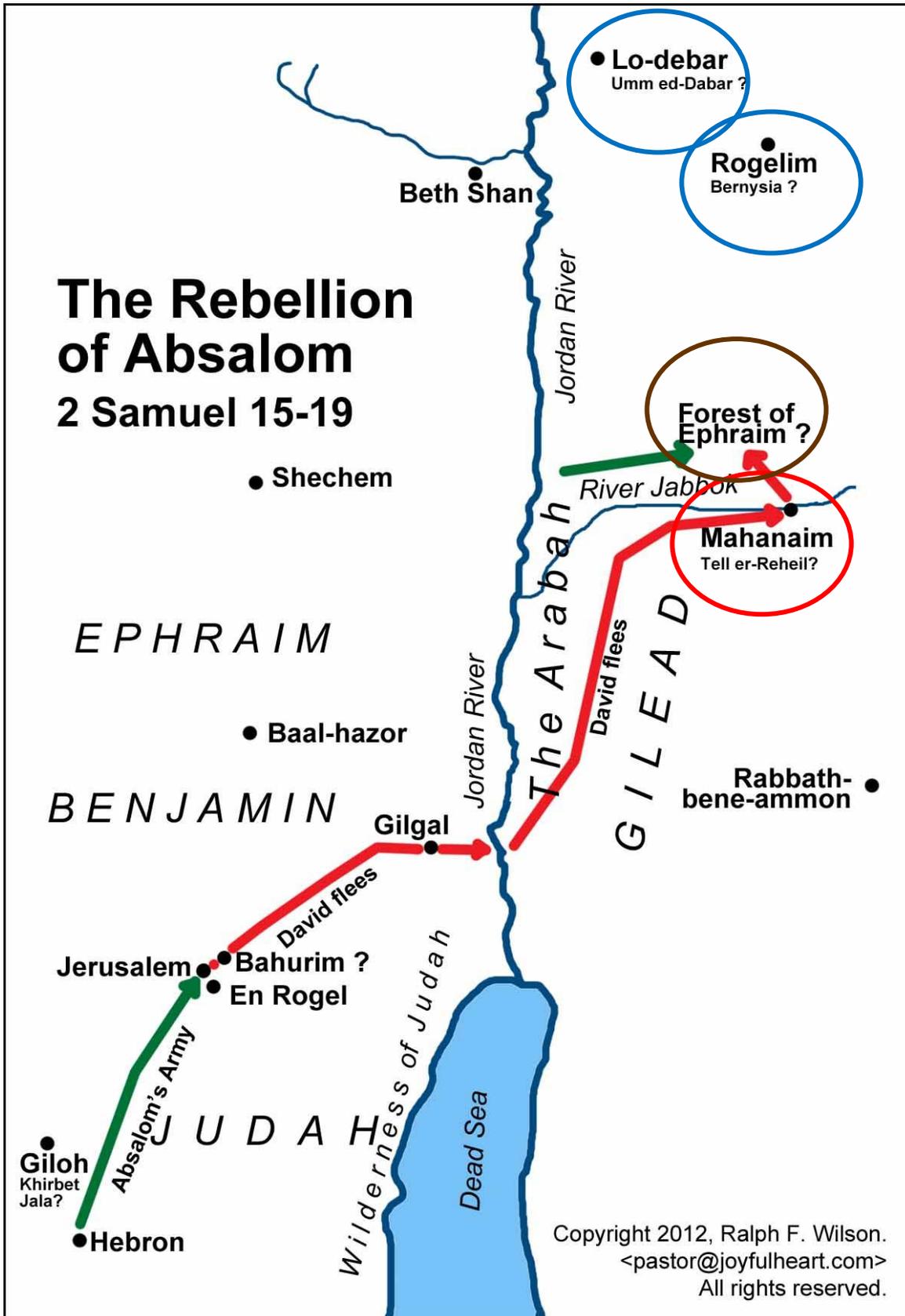
- a. To live at peace with one another - at church - at home - at work - in our family
- b. To ensure that there is unity in our church family

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

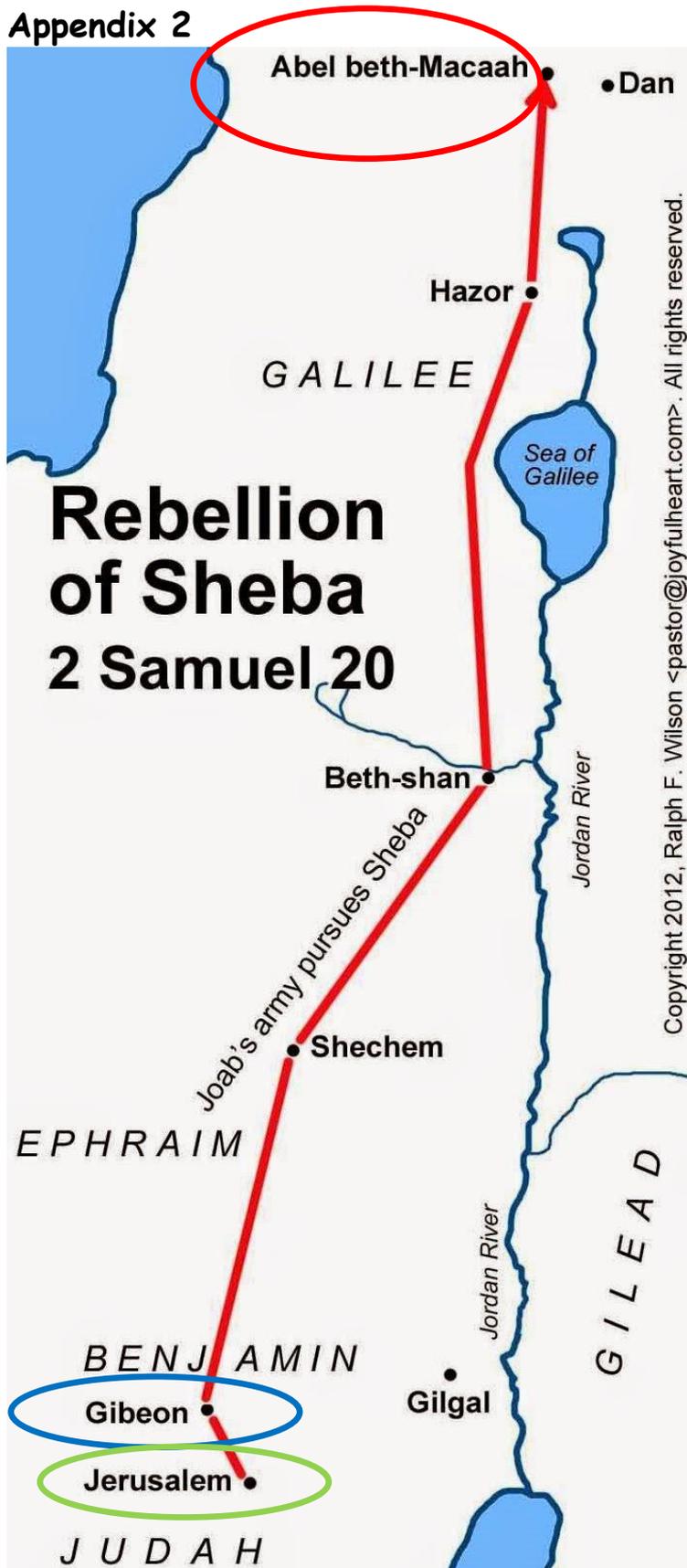
*V6 - David is concerned about the unity of Israel and sees that this rebellion by Sheba may cause more harm than Absalom's rebellion!*

**Finish in prayer:** Thanking God that as Christians we are one in Christ and asking God to help us to live in Christian unity.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



**Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke**  
**September/October 2020**

**Resources:**

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

The Message of Samuel (Mary J. Evans)

The Books of Samuel (Keil and Delitzsch)

Notes/Prayer Points