

THE END OF THE REBELLION

Introduction:

1. After the defeat of Absalom, David was finally restored to the throne of Israel.
2. His restoration was accomplished by patiently trusting in God and seeking unity through forgiveness.
3. However, he still faced a serious situation – there was clear division among the tribes of Israel.

- I. A Growing Division (2 Samuel 19:40-43)
 - A. As the King crossed the Jordan River and came back into Israel, he was escorted by the people of Judah and half the people of Israel.
 1. The leaders of Judah, kinsmen of David, had invited the king back to Jerusalem.
 2. Many of the people of Israel agreed with this decision and joined in the welcomed return.
 3. However, it seems that the leaders or elders of Israel (the men of Israel) were slow to agree to David's return.
 - B. The men of Israel accused the leaders of Judah of stealing the king from them by not including them in David's return procession.
 - C. The men of Judah responded that they had done nothing wrong or nefarious.
 - D. The argument continued with the men of Israel claiming that their 10 tribes had more right to the king than Judah's two.
 - E. Judah responded with even stronger words and the nation was at the brink of division.

- II. An Opportunistic Agitator (2 Samuel 20:1-2)
 - A. Present at this confrontation was a "worthless fellow" named Sheba.
 - B. He sounded a trumpet and encouraged the Israelites to abandon David and his rightful reign as king.
 - C. The men of Israel agreed and departed while the men of Judah remained loyal to David.

- III. A Decisive King (2 Samuel 20:3-22)
 - A. David knew that quick action had to be taken to end this rebellion and to secure the kingdom.
 - B. First, he made provision for his concubines who had been mistreated by Absalom – who would live out their lives as widows (cf. Deut. 24:1-4).
 - C. Then, he instructed Amasa – the new captain of his army – to raise the militia of Judah in three days.
 - D. For some reason, Amasa was not able to do this in the appointed time.
 - E. So, David commanded Abishai to take his forces (including David's bodyguards and 'mighty men') and to hunt down Sheba.
 - F. When they reached Gibeon, Amasa joined them.
 - G. Joab, no doubt jealous over his being replaced by Amasa, assassinated the new captain of Israel's army.
 1. He left Amasa wounded and suffering terrible agony.
 2. Even the soldiers of Israel were shocked and appalled at the actions of Joab.
 - H. Joab took charge of the soldiers and pursued Sheba to the town of Abel.

2 Samuel 20

- I. They began to besiege the city when a wise woman asked to speak to Joab.
 - J. She wanted the city to be spared and asked what Joab sought.
 - K. He told her of Sheba, and she promised that his head would be thrown over the wall to Joab.
 - L. She was true to her word, Sheba was killed, and the army of Israel returned to Judah.
 - M. Thus, the rebellion in Israel came to an end.
- IV. A Peaceful Kingdom (2 Samuel 20:23-26)
- A. For the next 10 years or so, the nation was organized and at relative peace.
 - B. David reigned as King and his appointed men served under him.
 - C. Yet, there was still trouble lurking in the person of Joab...