**2 Samuel 20. Sheba’s rebellion, 8/3/2018**

**Opening**

* Have you heard about “群众心理学” (crowd psychology or mob psychology)? What is it? Is it easy for a crowd to blindly follow a “leader”? Is that dangerous?
  + How to avoid the above?
  + Which side to take? Which leader(s) to follow? Have faith in what?
* Have you been in a politically dangerous situation (e.g., splitting of a company or an organization and in the absence of crowds)? How did you handle that? How to survive in such a situation?
  + Perhaps the best way is not to get into such a situation. Examples?
* Do you remember what we discussed last Fridays? Joab Rebukes David. David Returns to Jerusalem. David Pardons His Enemies. The struggle between men of Judah and men of Israel. What happened next?

**Outline** (ESV Study Bible)

1. Story of King David ([1:1–20:26](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+1-20/))
   1. David and the death of Saul ([1:1–27](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+1/))
   2. David becomes king ([2:1–5:5](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+2-5.5/))
   3. Jerusalem, the city of David ([5:6–25](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+5.6-25/))
   4. Zion, the place of worship ([6:1–23](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+6/))
   5. Davidic covenant: eternal throne ([7:1–29](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+7/))
   6. Catalog of David’s military activities ([8:1–18](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+8/))
   7. Mephibosheth ([9:1–13](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+9/))
   8. Israel-Ammon war ([10:1–12:31](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+10-12/))
      1. Beginning of Israel-Ammon war ([10:1–19](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+10/))
      2. David and Bathsheba ([11:1–12:25](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+11-12.25/))
      3. End of Israel-Ammon war ([12:26–31](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+12.26-31/))
   9. Absalom’s banishment and reinstatement ([13:1–14:33](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+13-14/))
   10. Absalom’s rebellion ([15:1–19:43](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+15-19/))
       1. Absalom’s conspiracy ([15:1–12](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+15.1-12/))
       2. David’s escape from Absalom ([15:13–16:14](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+15.13-16.14/))
       3. Ahithophel and Hushai ([16:15–17:23](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+16.15-17.23/))
       4. David arrives at Mahanaim ([17:24–29](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+17.24-29/))
       5. Death of Absalom ([18:1–19:8a](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+18-19.8/))
       6. David’s return to Jerusalem ([19:8b–43](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+19.8-43/))
   11. Sheba’s rebellion ([20:1–26](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+20/))
2. Epilogue ([21:1–24:25](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+21-24/))
   1. Famine and the death of Saul’s sons ([21:1–14](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+21.1-14/))
   2. Philistine wars ([21:15–22](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+21.15-22/))
   3. Song of David ([22:1–51](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+22/))
   4. Last words of David ([23:1–7](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+23.1-7/))
   5. David’s heroes ([23:8–39](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+23.8-39/))
   6. The census and the threshing floor ([24:1–25](https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+24/))



http://www.jesuswalk.com/david/maps/rebellion-of-sheba-map-2sam-20-750x1648x300.jpg

**The Rebellion of Sheba (20:1-13)**

* 2 Sam. 20:1–26 Sheba’s Rebellion. Sheba’s rebellion is directly connected with the split within the nation seen in 19:41–43. It does not seem to have gained support outside of his own clan (20:14), but the feeling that the king was not treating them well seems to have lingered among the northern tribes, then increased under Solomon (who did not require Judah to supply him with food in the list in 1 Kings 4:7–19), and finally caused the nation to split in two (1 Kings 12). ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 20:1 Seeming to say, “If we do not have 10 shares, we have none,” Sheba revolts. His rallying cry will later be used by Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:16). ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 20:4–5 David had made Amasa commander in 19:13, replacing Joab. Three days is a rather short time if he is supposed to gather men from all over Judah, and indeed he failed to gather an army in the set time that had been appointed him. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 20:6 When Amasa failed to produce an armed force on schedule (v. 5), David turned to Abishai, brother of Joab, David’s former general whom he had passed over in favor of Amasa. Abishai and Joab had often worked together in battle (3:30; 10:9–10; 18:2; also 1 Kings 11:15; 1 Chron. 18:12), so David probably should not have been too surprised at what soon transpired (2 Sam. 20:10). Sheba … will do us more harm than Absalom. David seems to have overestimated Sheba’s strength. Though “all the men of Israel” had initially followed him, apparently only the members of Sheba’s own Bichrite clan were truly committed to his cause (v. 14). ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 20:8–10 Readers are not told why Amasa was in Gibeon instead of Judah. The sword conspicuously falls out of Joab’s belt, but when he takes Amasa’s beard with his right hand, with his left hand he either picks it up again or gets out a hidden sword. Compare Joab’s similar murder of Abner in 2 Sam. 3:27 and his execution of Absalom in 18:14. Brother. Joab and Amasa were first cousins. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + Did David do the right things in the above paragraph? What else could he have done?
  + If you were Amasa, what would you do? If you were Joab, what would you do? Note that Amasa belonged to the tribe of Judah.

**The End of Sheba’s Rebellion (20:14-22)**

* 2 Sam. 20:14 Sheba and his men go to Abel, in the north of Israel, just west of Dan. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 20:16–22 The woman is wise (v. 16), i.e., skilled in choosing means for an end (in this case, to avert destruction) and in persuasive speech. A mother in Israel (v. 19) describes a main city with associated (daughter) villages (cf. Judg. 1:27). Israel is the heritage of the Lord. Joab denies (2 Sam. 20:20) that he has any desire to swallow up or destroy (the woman’s words): he will be content if Sheba is handed over to him. The woman goes one better, persuading the townspeople to cut off the head of Sheba to end the siege decisively. The hill country of Ephraim (v. 21) includes Benjaminite territory. ESV Study Bible.
* 2 Sam. 20:18 “Let them but ask counsel at Abel.”
  + Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible. Abel, it seems, had been a city so famous for wise and prudent men, that it was common for the inhabitants of other cities, when any controversy arose among them, to say to one another, since we cannot agree this matter among ourselves, let us go to Abel, and take advice there, and leave it to their arbitration; and so they did, and things were presently brought to an issue, and happily concluded. Now the woman argues from hence, that surely such a renowned city should not hastily be destroyed; so shouldest thou have asked of Abel, will ye make peace, or receive terms of peace?'' referring to the law in Deuteronomy 20:10; signifying, if that had been attended to as it ought, things would soon have been agreed and issued; had Joab upon approaching the city proposed his terms of peace, they would have immediately yielded to them, and so the matter would have ended at once; for they were a peaceable people. http://biblehub.com/2\_samuel/20-18.htm.
* 2 Sam. 20:19 “You seek to destroy a city that is a mother in Israel.”
  + Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible. A mother in Israel: a metropolitan city, which had several towns and villages under its jurisdiction, which were as daughters to it. http://biblehub.com/2\_samuel/20-19.htm.
* 2 Sam. 20:22 Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king. Apparently David did not punish Joab for the murder of Amasa (since Joab was still commander at the end of David’s reign; 1 Kings 1:19), but he did not forgive him either (1 Kings 2:5). ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + What has David done after Joab killed Amasa? See v. 23. Why? If you were David, what would you do?
  + What do you think about the woman and Joab?

**David’s Officials (20:23-26)**

* 2 Sam. 20:23–26 This list is very similar to the lists in 8:15–18 and 1 Kings 4:1–6. The posts and officials overlap to a large degree, but the order is different, and unlike the others, this one does not start out with the king. An official in charge of the forced labor (20:24) is not mentioned in ch. 8, so it is possible that this list is dated toward the end of David’s reign. The office is probably listed after the bodyguards as a military office because it involved mostly captured peoples, at least at first. Adoram was eventually stoned to death by the northern tribes at the time of Rehoboam (1 Kings 12:18). He is probably the same person as Adoniram in 1 Kings 4:6. The office of overseeing the forced labor is not mentioned again in the Bible, but a seventh-century seal bearing a similar title has been found. David’s priest (20:26) may have been similar to a private chaplain or adviser, probably the same office as Solomon’s “priest and king’s friend” (1 Kings 4:5). ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + What was Joab’s position in v. 23? Why?
  + What can we learn from this chapter?
    - “浮世绘” – 人世間生活百態or Ukiyo-e – various hedonistic attitudes.
    - How should we live our own lives?

**Wrapping up**

* What are your favorite verses?

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