### 2 Samuel

## Chapter 20

1Well, there was a man who was referred to as the ‘Son of a Criminal,’ and his name was SabeE son of BoChori, a BenJaminite.  
  
He then blew his horn and shouted:  
  
 ‘David [doesn’t have any respect] for us, nor does this son of JesSe have an inheritance for us!  
  
 ‘Therefore, men of IsraEl, let’s all return to our tents!’  
  
2And at that, all the men of IsraEl who were following David turned and started following The Son of BoChori! However, the men of Judah stuck by their king [and followed him] from the JorDan to JeruSalem.  
  
  
3Well, when David arrived at his palace in JeruSalem, he then took the 10 concubines whom he’d left to guard the house, and he had them put under guard. He took care of them, but he never went to bed with them after that.  
  
So they lived in custody as widows until the day that they died.  
  
  
4Thereafter, the king then said to AmaSa (the man who had served as the commander-in-chief of AbSalom’s army):  
  
 ‘Call the army of Judah to assemble here in three days… And I want you to return here.’  
  
5So AmaSa went and called [the army of] Judah, but he stayed away longer than David told him that he should, 6because David had told AmaSa that he was going to do something worse to The Son of BoChori than had been done to AbSalom.  
  
He told him to gather his servants and chase the man down before he could find a fortified city [where they couldn’t reach him]. 7So, JoAb’s men (the Cherethites, the Phelethites, and all the mightiest of his warriors) went to get AmaSa, and they’d also left JeruSalem to chase down The Son of BoChori.  
  
  
8Well, when they reached Great Stone in GibeOn, they found AmaSa standing there before them... Now, JoAb was dressed in full uniform, carrying a sword in its sheath, but [he let] the sword slide out and fall [to the ground].  
  
9Then JoAb asked AmaSa:  
  
 ‘Are you in good health, O brother?’  
  
Then he grabbed AmaSa’s beard with his right hand as if to kiss him 10(for AmaSa didn’t notice the [other] sword in JoAb’s other hand), and JoAb stuck the sword into his belly, pouring his guts out on the ground!  
  
Then he stabbed him a second time, killing him.  
  
  
Well after that, JoAb and his brother AbiShai got ready to chase after The Son of BoChori. 11And then one of JoAb’s servants stood up next to him and shouted to those who had been in AmaSa’s army:  
  
 ‘Which of you are on JoAb’s side and which of you are for David? Let them follow JoAb!’  
  
12Well, AmaSa was lying there dead in the middle of the road covered in blood, so one of his men carried his body from the road into a field and covered it with a cape, to keep people from coming there and stopping to look at it.  
  
13And after he took the body out of the road, all the men of IsraEl went with JoAb to hunt down The Son of BoChori.  
  
  
14Meanwhile, [The Son of BoChori] had traveled throughout all the tribes of IsraEl on his way to Abel BethMacha... 15And after he got there, JoAb formed to attack him in that city, building a ramp around its wall, because he planned to tear the walls down.  
  
16But a wise woman yelled from the wall:  
  
 ‘Listen! Listen! Tell JoAb to come here, because I want to speak to him!’  
  
17So he got up close to her, and the woman asked:  
  
 ‘Are you JoAb?’  
  
And he said:  
  
 ‘I am.’  
  
Then she said:  
  
 ‘Listen to what your servant has to say!’  
  
And JoAb said:  
  
 ‘I’m listening.’  
  
18So she said:  
  
 ‘There’s an old saying that goes:  
  
 ‘If you just choose to ask Abel,  
 All of your problems will be solved.’  
  
 19‘Now, I’m one of the peaceful ones who supports of IsraEl; however, you’re still planning to destroy our city… And a mother-city of IsraEl, at that!  
  
 ‘So, why would you want to sink the inheritance of Jehovah?’  
  
20And JoAb replied:  
  
 ‘Unless you people are kind and friendly with me, I’ll not only sink it, I’ll totally destroy it!  
  
 21‘For, isn’t this the place where a man from the hills of Ephraim who’s called The Son of BoChori is staying? This one who lifted his hand against King David?  
  
 ‘Hand him over to me personally, and I’ll leave your city!’  
  
And the woman said to JoAb:  
  
 ‘Look! I’ll toss his head over the wall to you.’  
  
22So the woman went to her people and told everyone in the city about her wise plan... Then they cut off the head of The Son of BoChori and tossed it to JoAb!  
  
And at that, JoAb blew his horn and all his men went back to their tents, while he returned to the king at JeruSalem.  
  
  
23After that, [David once again put] JoAb in charge of all the armies of IsraEl.  
  
Then he put:  
  
 • BenaiJah son of JehoiAda over the Cherethites and the Phelethites,  
 • 24AdoniRam in charge of the tributes, and  
 • JoSaphat son of AchiLuth in charge of the records.  
  
25[Also:]  
  
 • Susa was his scribe,  
 • ZaDok and AbiAthar were the Priests, 26and  
 • Iras son of JaRin was David’s personal Priest.