

LESSON 8: TENSION WITHIN THE KINGDOM

HOMEWORK

2nd Samuel: Chapters 19-20

Directions: Use your Study Bible, the internet, or any other study source to help you with these questions.

Read 2nd Samuel 19:1-43

1. David mourns for Absalom.
 - How did Joab react to David's mourning over Absalom?
 - What did David do to show the people his gratitude for defeating the rebellion?
 - What tension developed within the northern kingdom of Israel?
2. It upset David that the people of Judah did not respond well in bringing him back to Jerusalem.
 - Why do you think the people of Judah reacted slowly to bring David back to Jerusalem?
 - Why do you think David placed Amasa as commander of his army?
 - How did the people of Judah eventually respond to David?
3. Certain individuals met David as he entered Jerusalem.
 - How did Shimei respond to David?
 - How did Ziba respond to David?
 - How did Mephibosheth respond to David?

Read 2nd Samuel 20:1-26

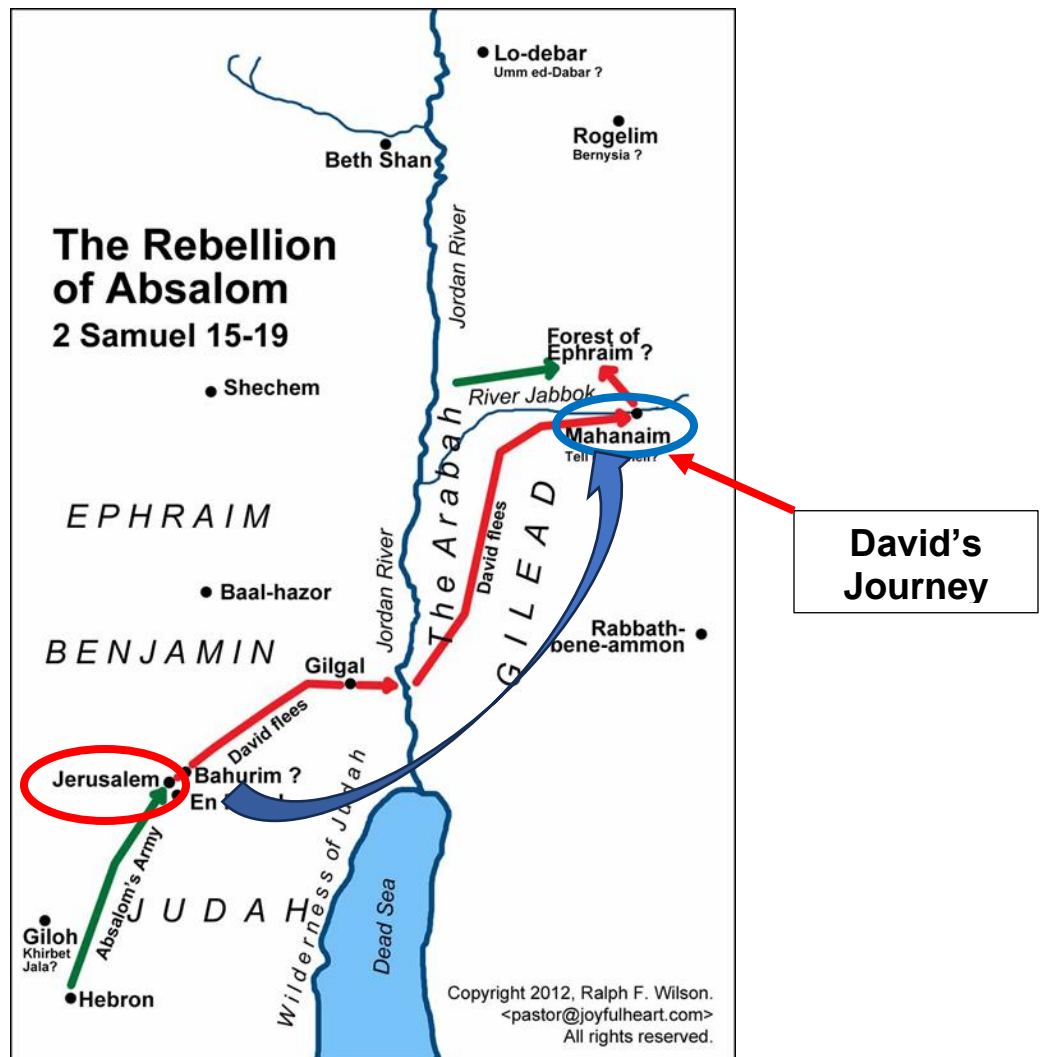
4. Sheba starts a rebellion within Israel.
 - Why did Sheba revolt against David?
 - What did David do with the concubines that Absalom defiled?
 - What order did David give to Amasa? Did Amasa carry out this order?
5. Joab kills Sheba.
 - What military tactic did Joab use against Beth-maacah?
 - How did Sheba die?
 - Who did David place as commander of his army?

LESSON 8: TENSION WITHIN THE KINGDOM 2ND SAMUEL CHAPTERS 19-20

CHAPTER 19: DAVID RETURNS TO JERUSALEM

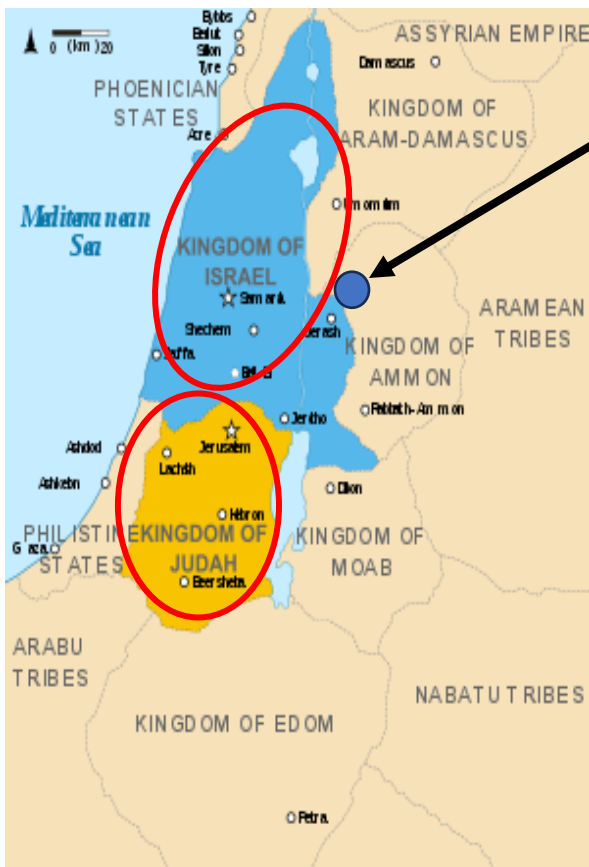
Vs. 1-23: David comes back to Jerusalem

- David could not rejoice in his victory but mourned greatly for Absalom.
- Because of David's mourning, his warriors and all those in Mahanaim hid their faces in shame.



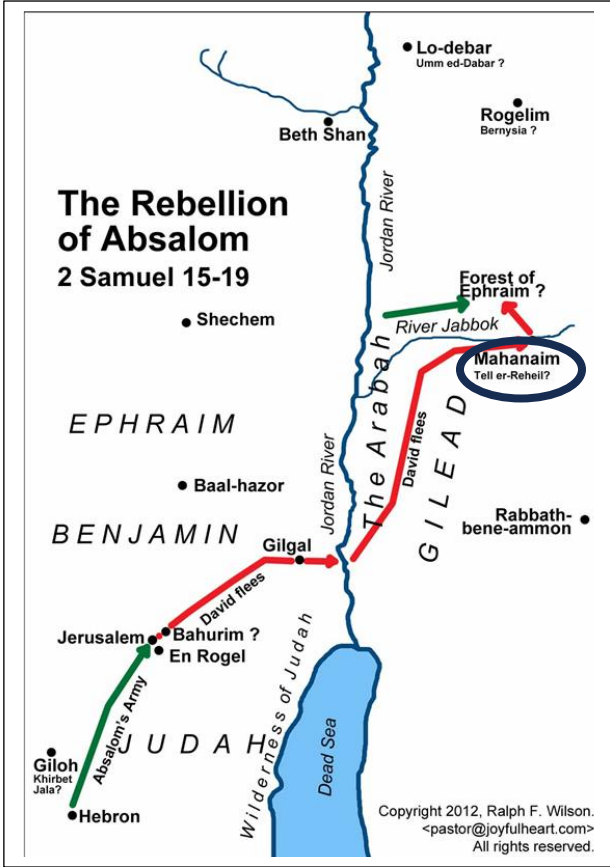
http://www.jesuswalk.com/david/life_of_david_maps_and_graphics.htm

- When Joab heard of David's attitude, he went and rebuked David for grieving toward his enemy while allowing his faithful follows to feel ashamed.
- Joab told David to go to the people or they would abandon him. As a result, David went to the city gate and honored the people.
- In the meantime, a quarrel erupted in **Israel** (the northern kingdoms) against those who did not bring David back to Jerusalem.



Rabbah-the capital of the Ammonites. Ammonites were descendants of Lot's 2nd son.

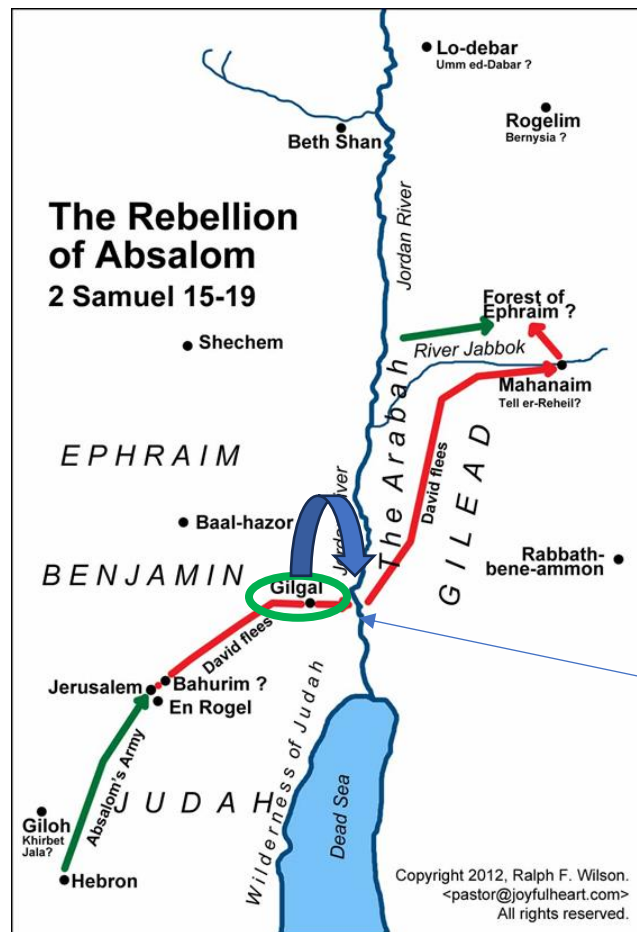
<http://www.biblestudy.org/maps/division-of->



http://www.jesuswalk.com/david/life_of_david_maps_and_graphics.htm

- Those who sided with David told the others that David had defeated the Philistines and Absalom.
- The people in Judah hesitated to bring David back to Jerusalem, possibly since some who remained in Jerusalem had supported **Absalom**.

- To win the support of Absalom's followers, David placed **Amasa**, the commander of Absalom's army, in command of his army.
- David therefore replaced Joab as his commander. Perhaps, David replaced Joab as punishment for killing Absalom.
- When David got as far as the Jordan river, the tribes of Judah came to **Gilgal** and brought him across the Jordan.
- As David crossed the Jordan, **Shimei**, the one who had cursed and thrown rocks at David, came and repented. David spared Shimei's life. However, on David's deathbed, he will order the punishment of Shimei (1 Kings 2:8-9, 36-46).
- **Ziba**, the servant who betrayed Mephibosheth, also came with his fifteen sons and his twenty servants to meet David at the Jordan.



Gilgal

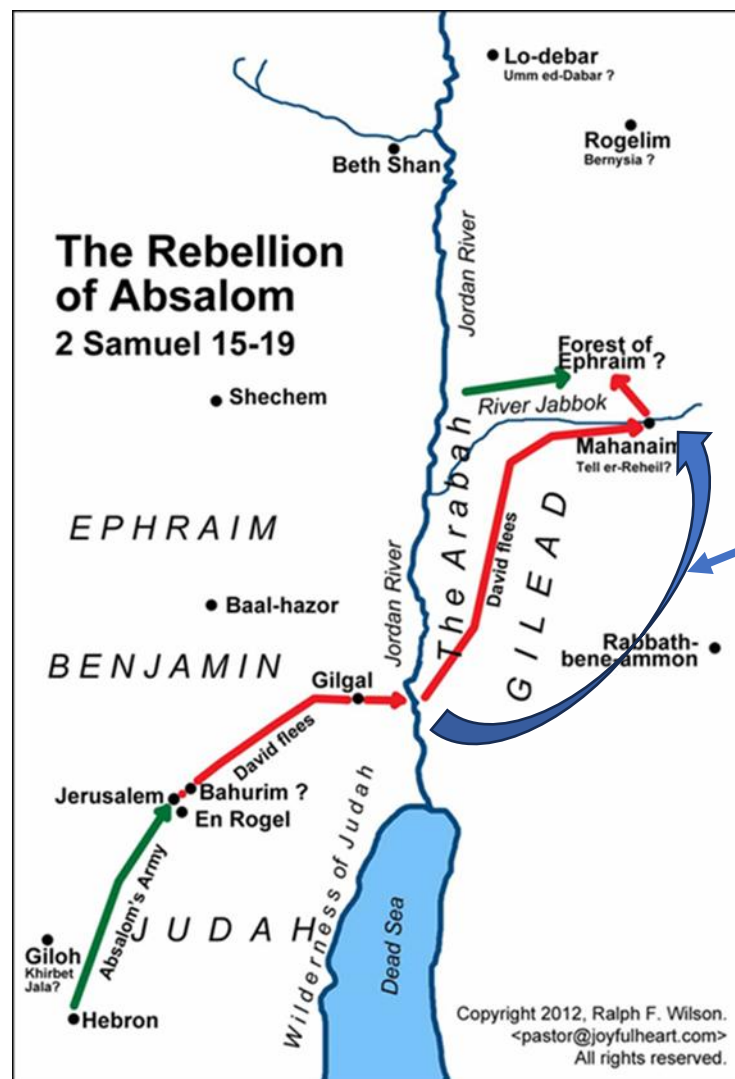
- Ziba had told David, upon his departure from Jerusalem, that his master Mephibosheth had stayed in Jerusalem hoping to have the kingdom restored to him.
- Ziba lied. Mephibosheth could not go with David due to his handicap.



<https://www.goodsalt.com/details/lwjas0144.html>

- **Mephibosheth** met David. He had not cared for his feet, trimmed his mustache, or washed his clothes, from the day David departed.
- David asked Mephibosheth why he did not go with him from Jerusalem. Mephibosheth answered and said Ziba had deceived him.
- David decided Mephibosheth and Ziba would divide the land. Mephibosheth, in his anguish, said for Ziba to take it all.

- **Barzillai** came to David. He had gone with David to the Jordan from Mahanaim and brought David and his men food and supplies while they camped in Mahanaim.
- At the age of eighty, Barzillai asked David's permission to live out his years in Mahanaim. In his place, Barzillai sent Chimham (perhaps his son or servant) to cross over with David. David promised to take care of Chimham.
- David might have, in respect to Barzillai, given part of his personal estate in Bethlehem to Chimham and his descendants (1st Kings 2:7, Jeremiah 41:17).



Barzillai goes back to Mahanaim

Vs. 40-43: A Revolution Within the Kingdom

- David continued to Jerusalem with the people of Judah and half the people of Israel.
- The men of Israel (the northern tribes) felt angry and hurt with those of Judah for not waiting for them at the Jordan to receive the king. As a result, there arose a harsh feeling between Israel and Judah.

CHAPTER 20: TENSION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JUDAH

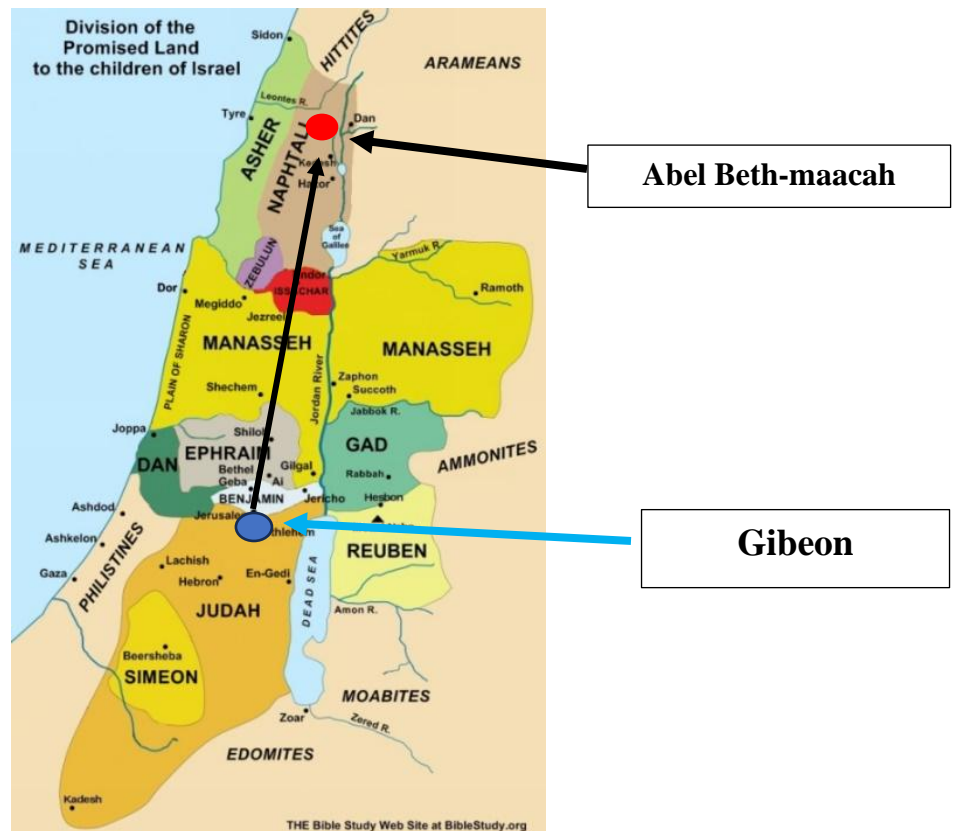
Vs. 1-26: The Makings of a Revolution

- Due to the tension between Israel and Judah, Sheba-a Benjamite-blew a trumpet and announced Israel would withdraw from following David.
- The men of Judah, however, remained faithful to David.



[http://www.wow.com/wiki/Kingdom_of_Israel_\(united_monarchy\)](http://www.wow.com/wiki/Kingdom_of_Israel_(united_monarchy))

- David entered Jerusalem, went to his house, took the ten concubines that Absalom defiled and sheltered them as widows.
- David ordered **Amasa**, Absalom's chief of the army and now David's chief of the army, to call out the men of Judah and present themselves within three days.
- Amasa did not follow David's orders in time and David replaced him with **Abishai**, Joab's brother. He told Abishai to pursue Sheba before he escaped.
- Both Joab and Abishai pursued Sheba. When they reached Gibeon, they met Amasa at a large stone. Joab let his sword fall from its sheath.
- **Pretending** it an accident, he picked up the sword and killed Amasa. Both brothers then went on to pursue Sheba.
- One of Joab's young men pronounced Joab as the commander of David's army and the power transferred back to Joab.
- Joab caught up with Sheba who hid in the city of Abel Beth-maacah



<http://www.biblestudy.org/maps/division-of-promised-land-to-twelve-tribes-israel-large-map.html>

- Joab's army laid a **siege** to Abel Beth-maacah and set up a siege ramp against the city.
- A very wise woman yelled to Joab and suggested he make a peaceful solution without destroying the city. Joab told her he wanted Sheba due to his disloyalty to King David.
- The woman gathered the people of Abel Beth-maacah, killed Sheba, and threw his head over the wall to Joab. Satisfied, Joab returned to Jerusalem.
- Joab **commanded** David's army.



<https://www.biblewalks.com/AbelBethMaacah>

SUMMARY

Unless something very intense happens to a person, they tend to stay the same throughout life. Most dramatic changes occur with the help of the Lord. Without the Lord, a person has very little opportunity to change.

Proverbs 26:3-12 describes the fool.

3 A whip is for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, And a rod for the back of fools.
4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will also be like him. 5
Answer a fool as his folly deserves, that he not be wise in his own eyes. 6 He
cuts off his own feet and drinks violence who sends a message by the hand of a
fool. 7 Like the legs which are useless to the lame, so is a proverb in the mouth
of fools. 8 Like one who binds a stone in a sling, so is he who gives honor to a
fool. 9 Like a thorn which falls into the hand of a drunkard, so is a proverb in the
mouth of fools. 10 Like an archer who wounds everyone, so is he who hires a
fool or who hires those who pass by. 11 Like a dog that returns to its vomit is a
fool who repeats his folly. 12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is
more hope for a fool than for him.

2nd Samuel portrays many accounts of the fool. Without God's guidance a person
has little chance in becoming all that God intended. God will make the paths straight
for one who seeks His guidance.

LESSON 8: TENSION WITHIN THE KINGDOM
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
2ND Samuel: Chapters 19-20

1. Scripture states David's grief over Absalom overshadowed the joy of winning the battle.
 - A. Do we often allow the hardships in life to destroy our blessings? Explain.
 - B. How can we learn to praise more worshipfully?
 - C. Psalm 92:1 refreshes the soul?

2. The people of Judah hesitated in bringing David back to Jerusalem.
 - A. Why did Judah hesitate to bring David back?
 - B. Have friends or family ever shunned you? Explain.
 - C. Did reconciliation ever take place? Explain.

3. David brought reconciliation toward the people in Judah.
 - A. What did David do to bring about this reconciliation?
 - B. Do you ever find it difficult to reach out first to reconcile a situation?
 - C. Have you ever tried to reconcile a difference with no result? Explain. How did you feel?

4. David must have had a difficult time knowing who told the truth between Ziba and Mephibosheth.
 - A. Have you ever had to reconcile a difference between two friends? Explain.
 - B. Did you know who told the truth? How did you know?
 - C. Sometimes stepping into an argument between friends can cause more trouble. How do you know when to step in and when to stay out of a difficult situation between two people?

5. Ancient people often used sieges as a military tactic. When laying a siege, the attacking army would surround a city and wait until the people of that city came out to fight, surrender, or become too weak to fight. (Answer the following using a siege as a metaphor?) In other words, how can waiting for an answer help us?
 - A. How can a life-siege help in dealing with harmful or hurtful relationships?
 - B. Have you ever had to lay a life-siege with a friend, colleague, or neighbor? Explain.
 - C. How do you know when to lay a life-siege or when to act quickly in trying to remedy a situation?