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### Lesson 98

# Sheba's Unsuccessful Rebellion

#### **Story Elements**

- Text: 2 Samuel 20:1-26Setting: approx. 980 B.C.
- Main Characters: God, David, Sheba, Amasa, and Joab
- **Plot**: Joab murders Amasa and then quells another rebellion.
- Key word(s): "\_\_\_\_\_\_
- Climax: "And one of Joab's men stood by him, and said, He that favoureth Joab, and he that is for David, let him go after Joab." (20:11)

#### Review

1. (2 Sam. 19:9-43) After David's army vanquished Absalom's, the tribes of Israel bickered amongst themselves about David's return to the throne. *En route* to Jerusalem, David was escorted by his loyal followers, and met by apologetic rebels.

#### Sheba Rebels

- 2. (20:1-2) While David's entourage made their way back to Jerusalem, a man of Belial named \_\_\_\_\_\_ (of the tribe of Benjamin and therefore probably loyal still to the house of Saul) blew the trumpet and announced the secession of the northern tribes from the David's kingdom. Only David's native tribe Judah remained faithful.
- 3. (20:4) After reentering Jerusalem, David summoned Amasa to arrange a campaign against Sheba. Amasa (who was given \_\_\_\_\_\_ job as army commander) was told to gather sufficient forces and return in three days.

## **Amasa Murdered**

- 4. (20:5-6) When Amasa did not return at the appointed time, David ordered \_\_\_\_\_\_, Joab's brother, to take Joab's best soldiers (the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and other mighty men) and pursue after Sheba without the tardy Amasa.
- 5. (20:7-10) Later, Amasa caught up with Joab's forces at Gibeon, at which time he was saluted by Joab.
  - (a) As Joab approached Amasa to give him a customary greeting, he purposefully let his sword fall to the ground so that Amasa would not be \_\_\_\_\_ when he picked it up and had it in hand right before kissing him. With Amasa caught off guard, Joab stabbed him and left him wallowing in his own gore.
  - (b) (20:11-13) One of Joab's loyal soldiers stood over the dying Amasa and demanded that every soldier declare their allegiance to David by following \_\_\_\_\_\_. As the

the highway to speed up the "rubber-necker" traffic jam.
City Spared
<ul> <li>6. (20:14-19) Sheba and his followers holed up in of Beth-Maachah, a fortified city about 10 miles east of the Sea of Galilee. Joab and his men were not far behind.</li> <li>(a) As the siege of Abel commenced a wise, old woman called out to Joab and reasoned with him to spare the city, which was an honored city in Israel. Basically, she was pleading Deu. 20:10, "When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim unto it."</li> <li>(b) (20:20-22) Joab hearkened to the woman's wisdom and gave her the conditions of peace: the city would be spared if Sheba was surrendered. Moments later, Sheba's was unceremoniously tossed over the city wall.</li> </ul>
Application
7. David's reign makes us appreciate the Savior's reign both in his typical characteristics of Jesus' reign, as well as his anti-typical characteristics. David winked at Joab's sins because Joab was a necessary evil, but the Savior knows no such compromise. The Savior's throne is and does not depend on fragile or embarrassing political compromises.
Psalm 110:1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, Until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

troops filed past Amasa's gruesome scene, it was necessary to remove him from

**Answer Key:** Key word(s): Joab • 2. Sheba • 3. Joab's • 4. Abishai • 5. a) alarmed; b) Joab • 6. Abel; a) peace; b) head

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the Story Elements section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the Answer Key. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the Notes section.