

SAUL, DAVID, & SOLOMON

Lessons In Faith





II SAMUEL





David's Mighty Men



The people were returning their allegiance to David after the rebellion of Absalom.

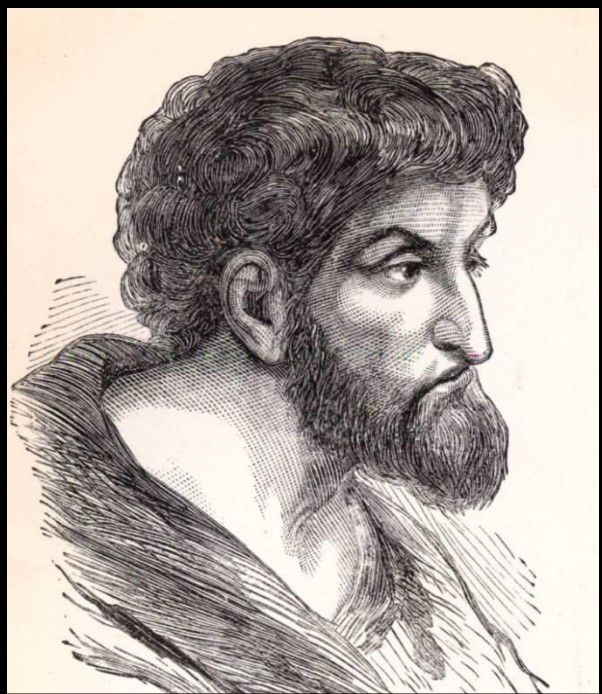
Some had been loyal to Absalom, so it needed to be handled with great tenderness and caution lest the peace break again before it was settled.



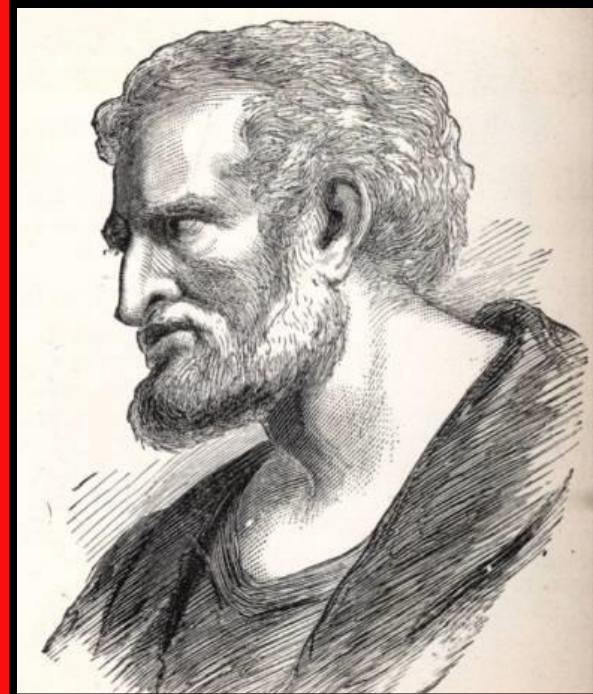
Though terribly grieved over the loss of his son Absalom, David had won the uprising and again peacefully ruled in Jerusalem.



David rejected Joab as his commander-in-chief and put Amasa in his place. Likely this move was done in reaction to Joab killing Absalom.

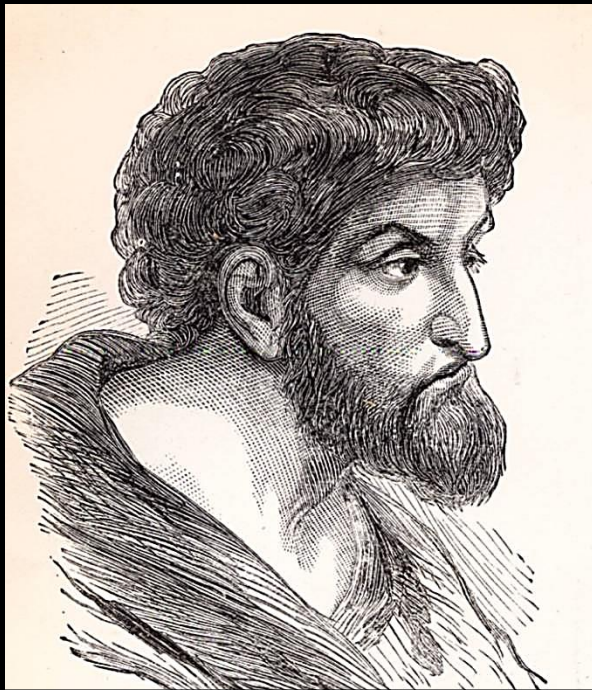


Amasa

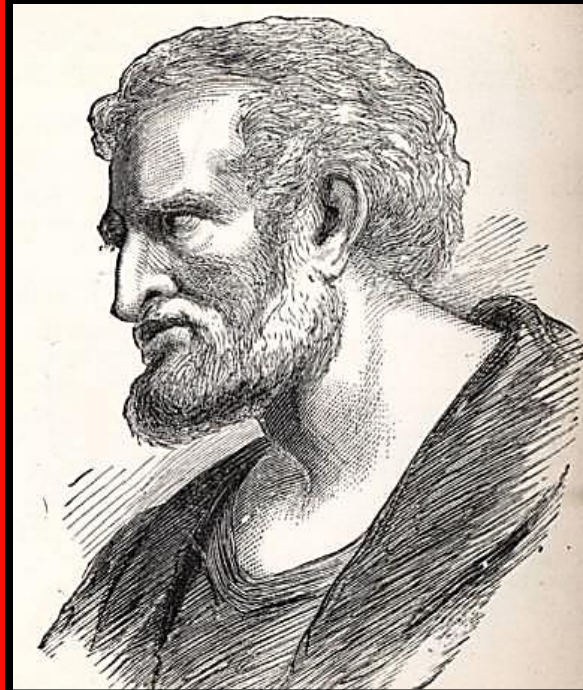


Joab

Amasa had been the general of Absalom's rebellious army. After the death of Absalom he came over to David's interests upon the promise that he should be general of his forces instead of Joab.

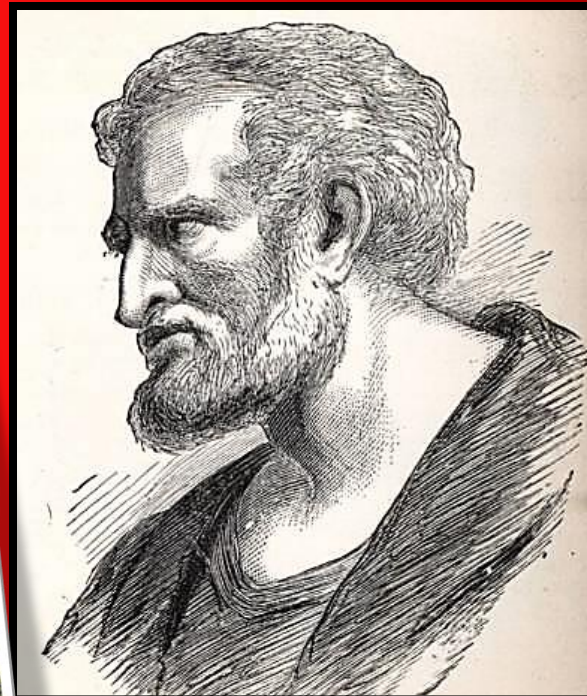


Amasa



Joab

You can imagine Joab's reaction to his demotion. Yes, he killed Absalom . . . but wasn't it best for Israel to be rid of a man that wanted to kill David and replace him as king?



Joab

And, he and his brothers were among
David's Mighty Men!



Joab



THE THREE BROTHERS

**Abishai, Joab, and Asahel
were among the mighty men of David.**

Abishai

He was intensely loyal to David.

He counseled David to kill the sleeping Saul.

He wanted to take the head of cursing Shimei . . . David stopped him.

Asahel

He was “light of foot as a wild roe.”

He was killed by Abner in combat . . . it was self-defense.

Joab

He murdered Abner, Saul’s commander, for the death of Asahel.

He was David’s commander.

He obeyed David’s order to send Uriah to the front to be killed.

He persuaded David to bring Absalom out of exile.

He convinced David to meet Absalom face to face following his exile.

He killed Absalom.

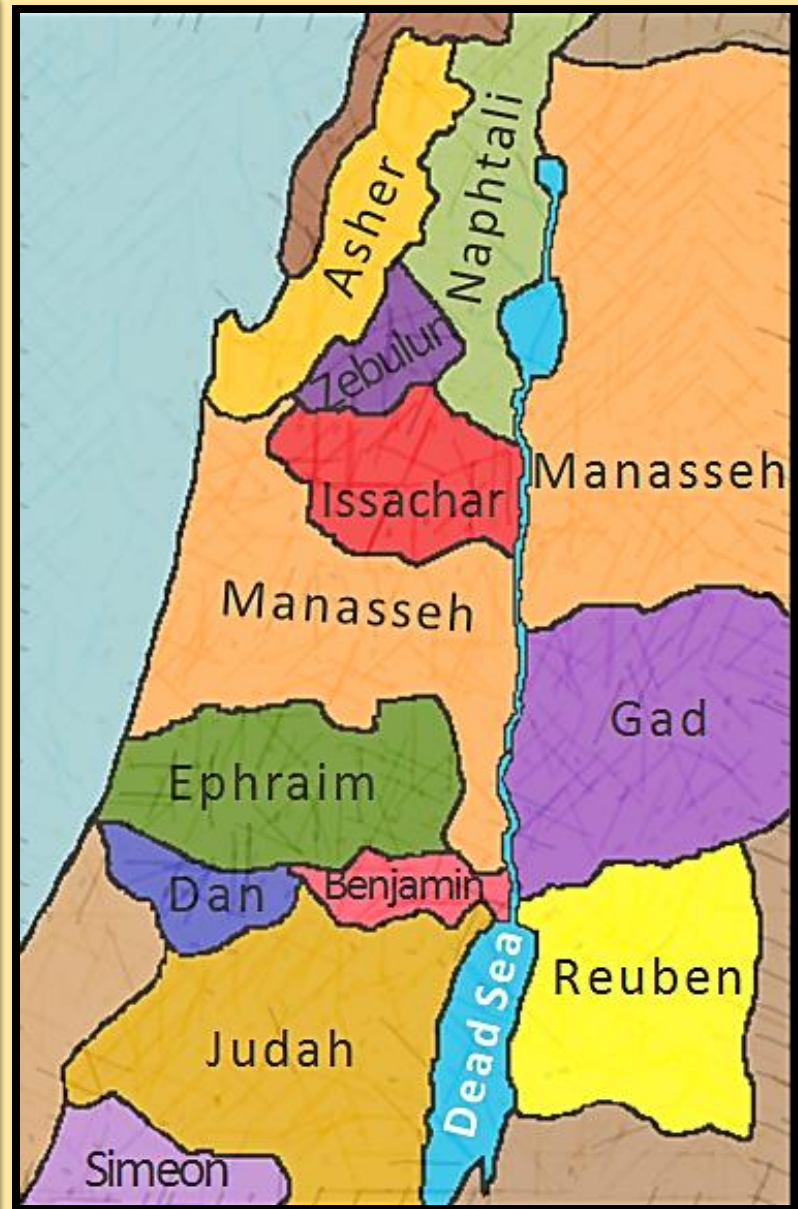
Israel felt they deserved ten times the recognition of Judah.

Judah claimed closer kinship to the king because he was from the tribe of Judah.

The dispute was regarding who had the most interest in David—

"We are more numerous," say the elders of Israel.

"We are nearer akin to him," say the elders of Judah.

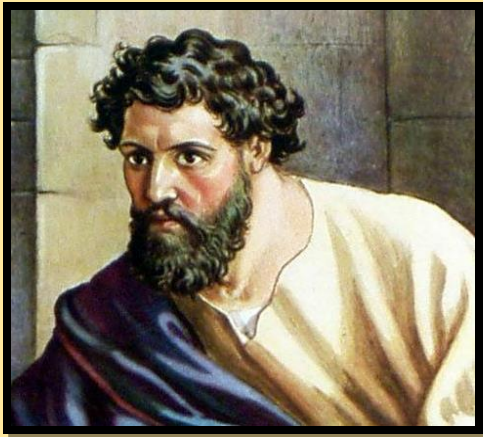




David made the mistake of being partial to his own tribe, Judah. He allowed their words to prevail above the words of the men of Israel. David was inclined to justify Judah, and when the men of Israel perceived this, they reacted with indignation. It was a foolish quarrel and a costly one, for it started another rebellion.



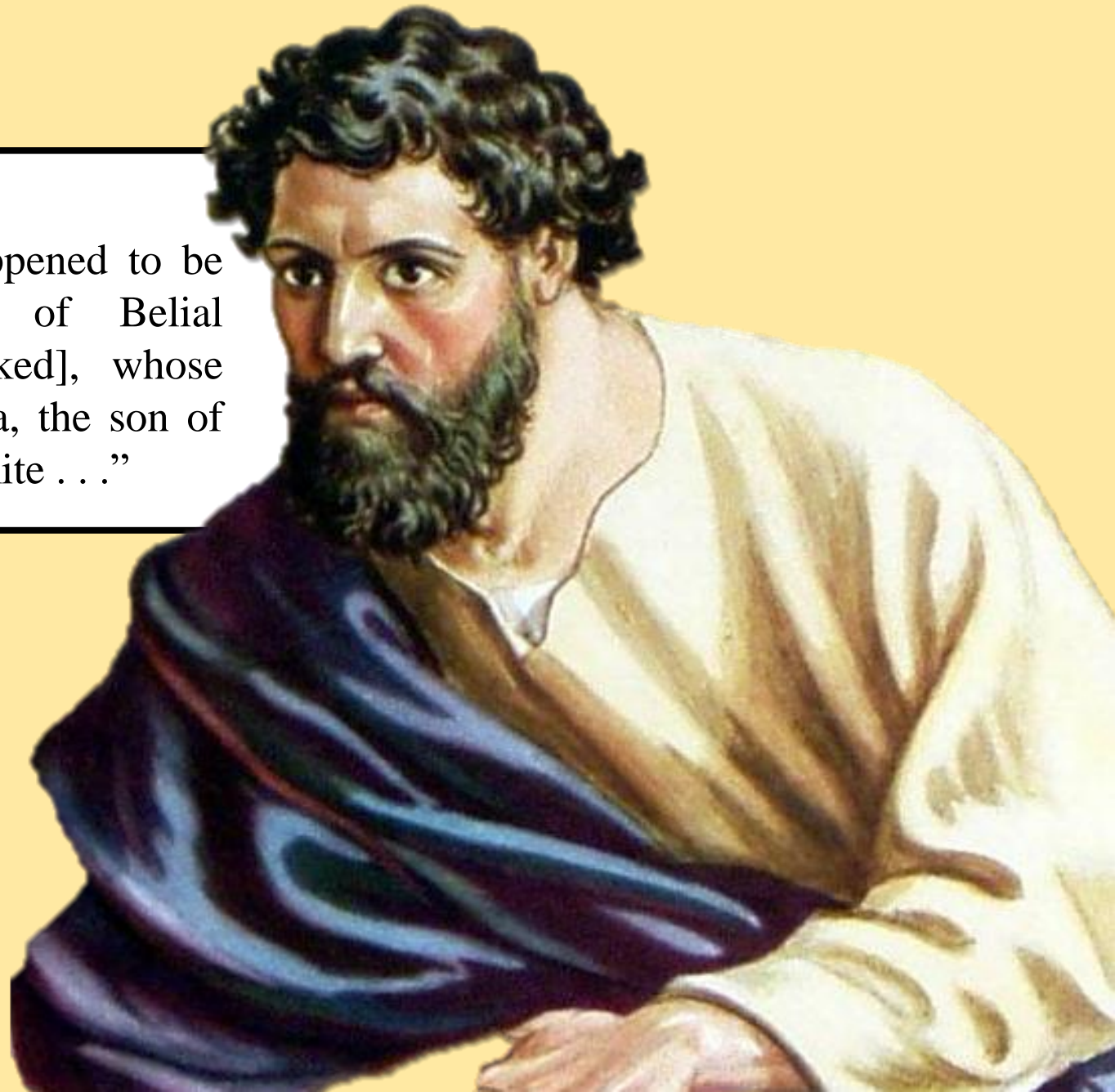
Israel reacted by disowning him as their king.
This is where Sheba comes onto the scene.



SHEBA'S REBELLION

2 Samuel 20

“¹And there happened to be there a man of Belial [worthless, wicked], whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite . . .”



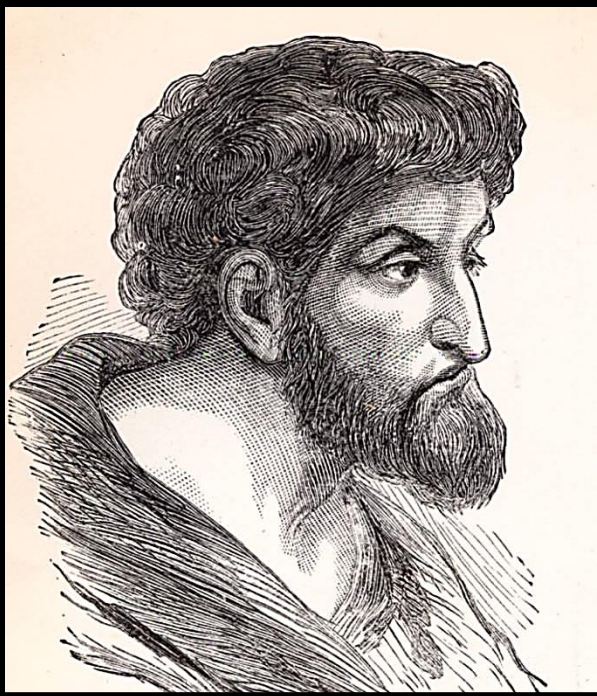
2 Samuel 20

¹ . . . And he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel.

²So every man of Israel went up from after David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri: but the men of Judah clave unto their king, from Jordan even to Jerusalem.”



AMASA'S DEATH

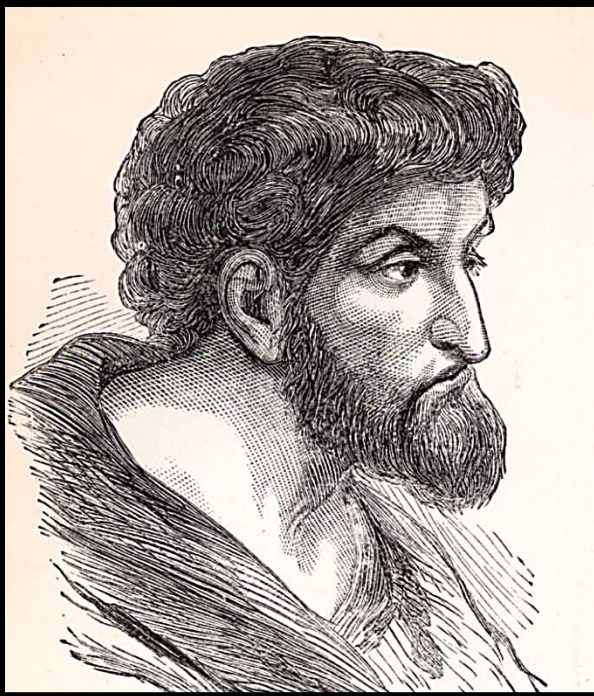


Amasa

We have here Amasa's fall just as he began to rise.

Amasa should have been prepared for Joab's reaction when David changed his general from Joab to him.

AMASA'S DEATH

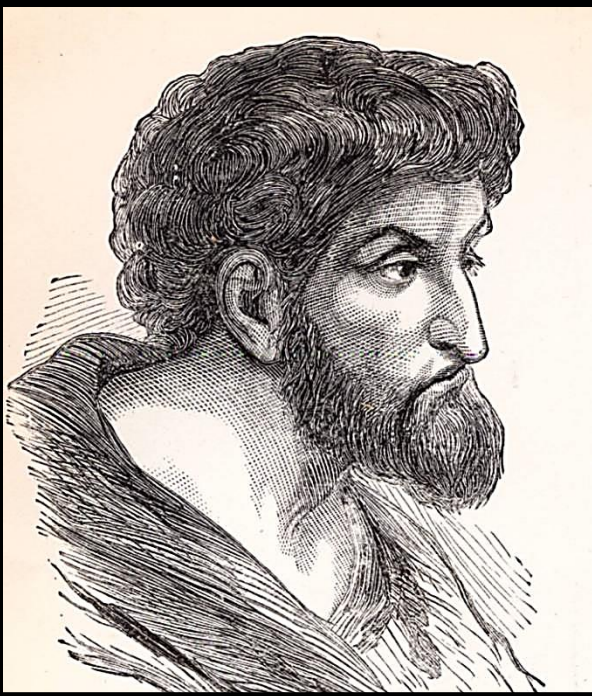


Amasa

2 Samuel 20

“⁴Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and be thou here present. ⁵So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah: but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him.”

AMASA'S DEATH



Amasa

The men Amasa tried to train were so backward and unready that he could not prepare them in 3 days. Obviously, David's *Mighty Men* were not among those Amasa called up. Did they refuse to follow him as their general?



2 Samuel 20

“⁶And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the son of Bichri do us more harm than did Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants, and pursue after him, lest he get him fenced cities, and escape us.”



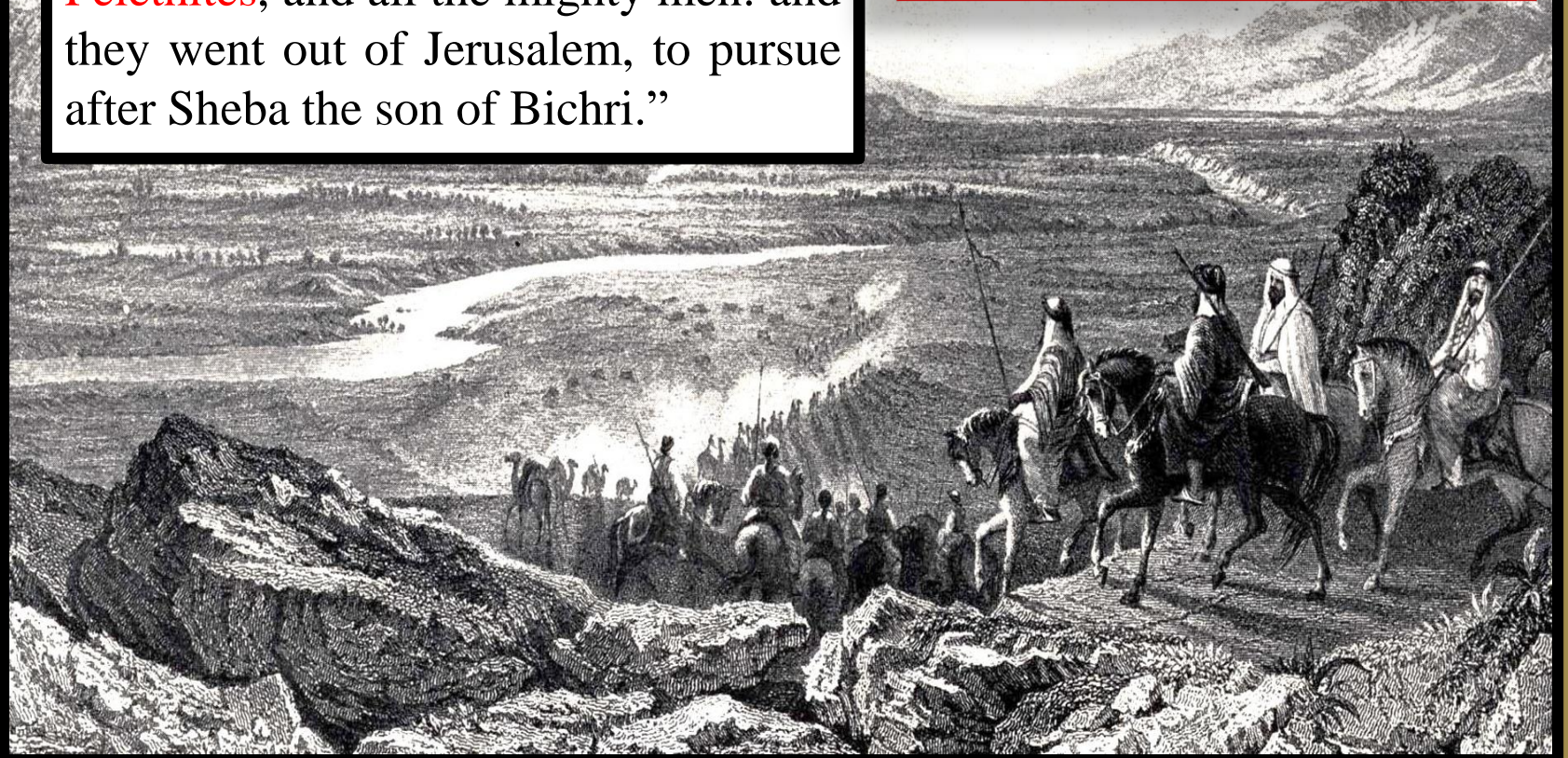
Upon Amasa's delay—

Abishai, the brother of Joab, was ordered to take the guards and standing forces and with them to pursue Sheba, for nothing could be more dangerous than to give him time. David gave these orders to Abishai because he resolved to degrade Joab for the blood of Absalom.

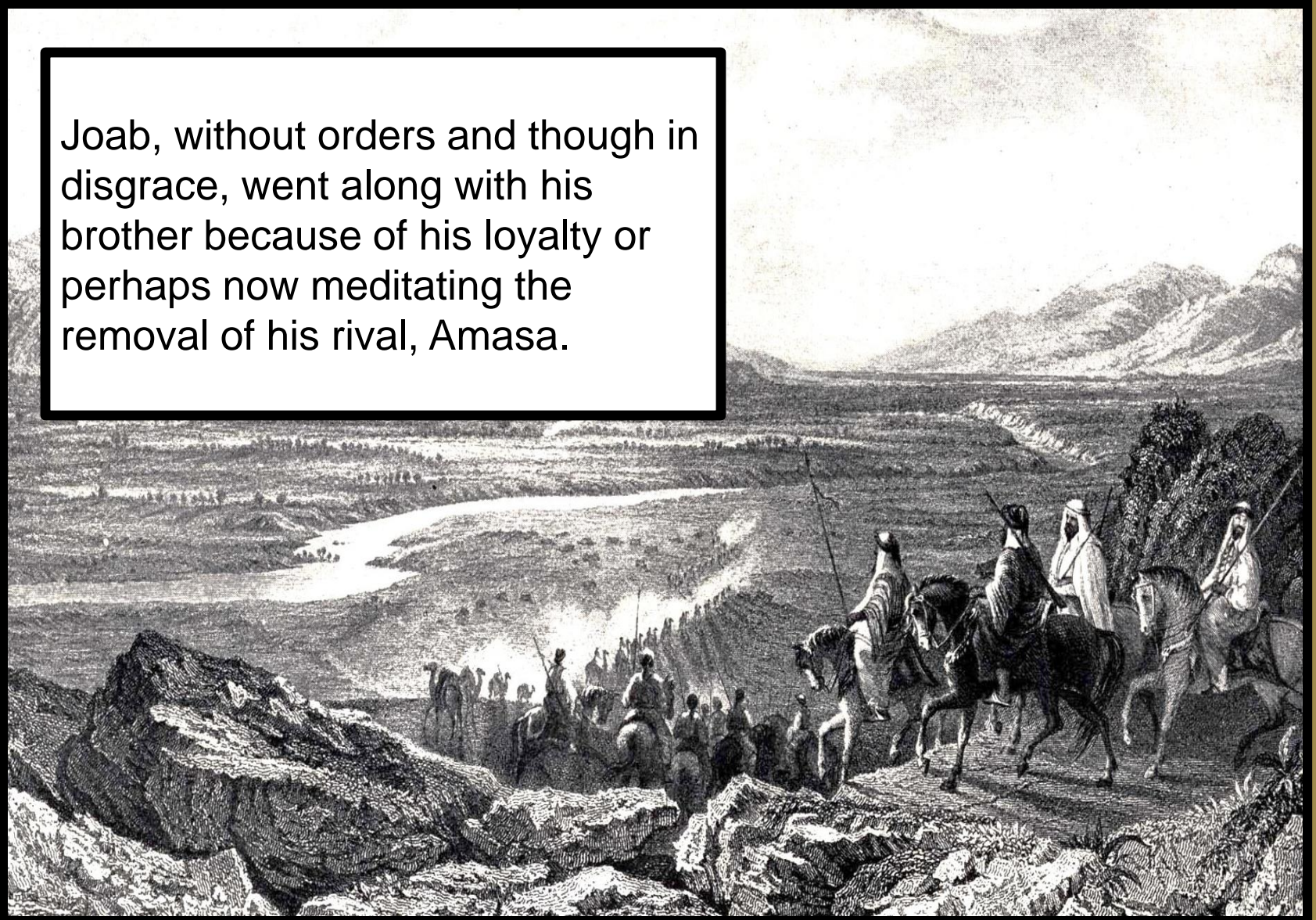
2 Samuel 20

“⁷And there went out after him Joab’s men, and the **Cherethites**, and the **Pelethites**, and all the mighty men: and they went out of Jerusalem, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.”

Cherethites and Pelethites were David’s special bodyguards of Philistine troops.



Joab, without orders and though in disgrace, went along with his brother because of his loyalty or perhaps now meditating the removal of his rival, Amasa.



The two forces of David's army met at Gibeon—

The veteran troops, which Abishai and his brother Joab brought,

and

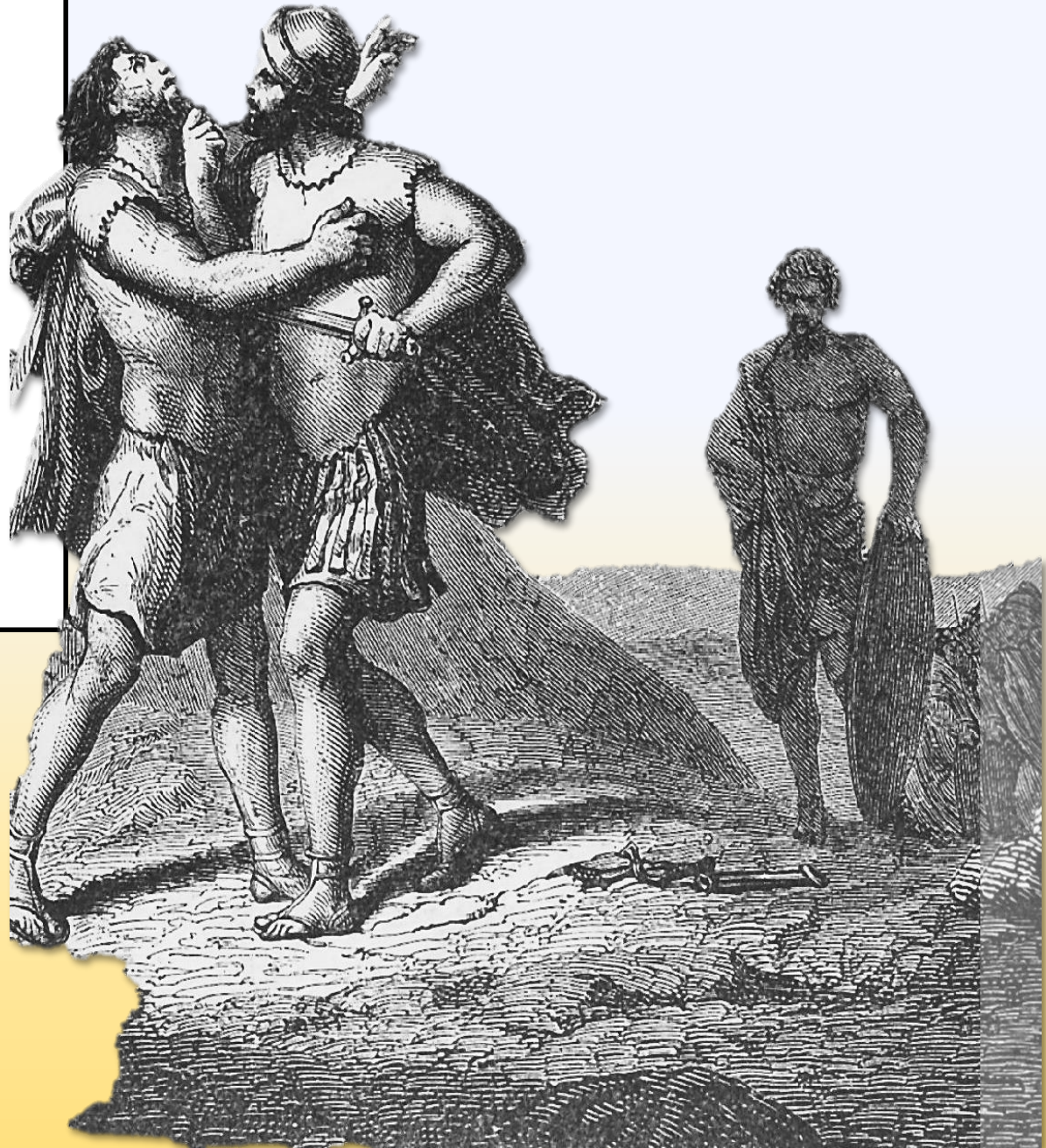
the others lead by their rival and David's new general, Amasa.

When Joab approached Amasa it was to barbarously murder him.



2 Samuel 20

“8. . . And Joab’s garment that he had put on was girded unto him, and upon it a girdle with a sword fastened upon his loins in the sheath thereof; and as he went forth it fell out.”



2 Samuel 20

“⁹And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And **Joab took Amasa by the beard** with the right hand to kiss him. ¹⁰But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab’s hand: **so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground,** and struck him not again; and he died.”



Joab murdered Amasa

He did it subtly—

He pushed his coat out of his way,
He placed his sword to be ready,
He had a big sheath, so his sword could fall.

He did it treacherously—

He pretended friendship,
He took hold of his beard as if to kiss him,
He did it for revenge against a hypocrite.

He did it impudently—

He boldly murdered for his troops to see,
He did it in contempt and defiance,
He feared no reprisal.





2 Samuel 20

“¹¹And 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. ¹²And Amasa wallowed in blood in the midst of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he removed Amasa out of the highway into the field, and cast a cloth upon him, when he saw that every one that came by him stood still. ¹³When he was removed out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.”



2 Samuel 20

“¹⁴And he went through all the tribes of Israel unto Abel, and to Bethmaachah, and all the Berites: and they were gathered together, and went also after him. ¹⁵And **they came and besieged him in Abel** of Bethmaachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that were with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down.”



Joab drew up all his force against the city of Abel, besieged it, and battered the wall in an all out attack because that city dared to harbor a traitor.

A discreet good woman of the city of Abel got Joab's attention. She reasoned with him on behalf of her city saying that it was famous for wisdom, for being peaceable, and faithful in Israel; that it was a mother in Israel, a guide and nurse to the towns about it, part of the inheritance of the Lord, a city of Israelites not of heathens, and the destruction of it would weaken the nation.



There is a large archaeological site at the ruins of **Abel Bethmaachah** consisting of a mound with a small upper northern section and a large lower southern one. It is located on the northern border of present-day Israel, about 6.5 km west of Tel Dan.



Wikimedia Commons / Author: Tel Abel Beth Maacah Excavations



Excavated items from Abel Bethmaacah



Ring Flask



Jug with silver hoard



Pottery



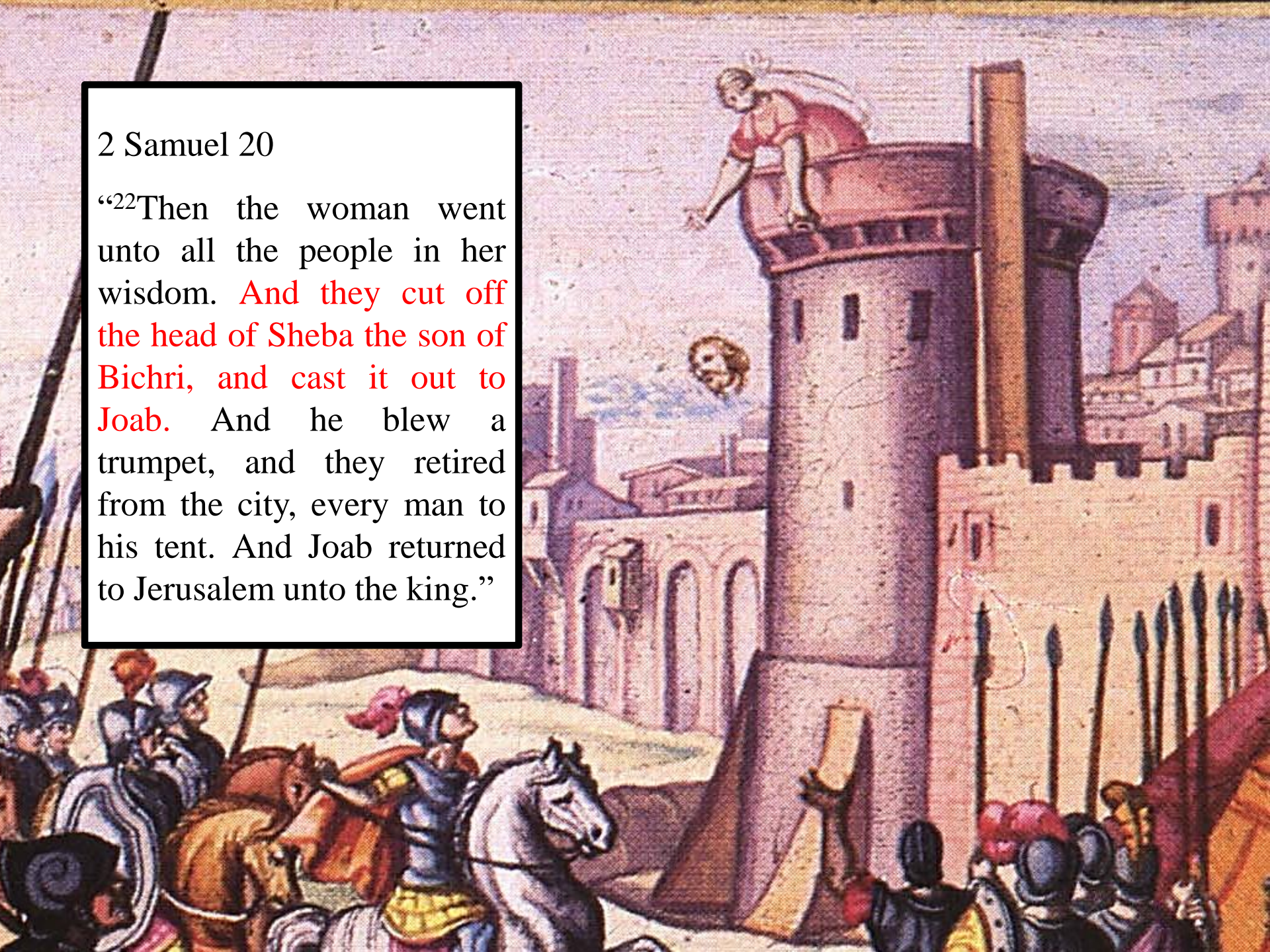
2 Samuel 20

“²⁰And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. ²¹The matter is not so: but a man of mount Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, hath lifted up his hand against the king, even against David: **deliver him only, and I will depart from the city. And the woman said unto Joab, Behold, his head shall be thrown to thee over the wall.**”



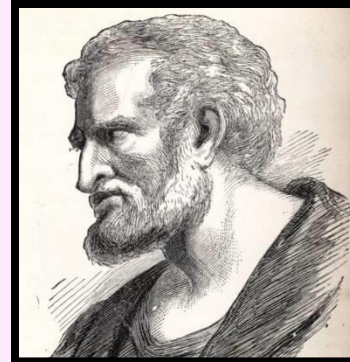
2 Samuel 20

“²²Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. **And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab.** And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.”



2 Samuel 20

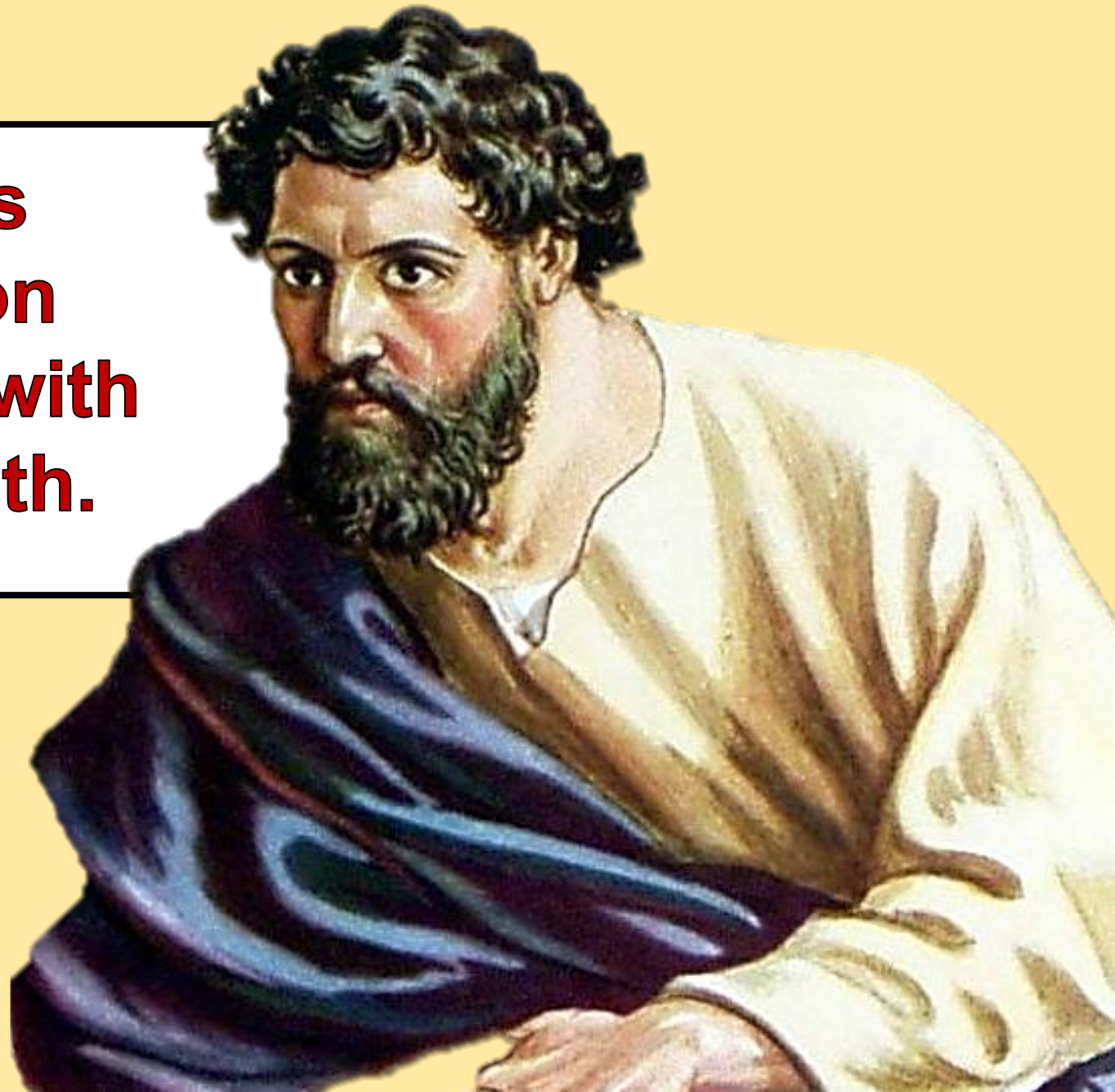
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Joab

We are not told that there was any action taken against Joab for murdering Amasa. He continues as David's commander-in-chief.

**Sheba's
rebellion
ended with
his death.**





THE END

