

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
THE DANGER OF REBELLION-PART 1
2 SAMUEL 19:41-43; 20:1-2

Introduction

Have you ever known someone whose life was full of rebellion against authority?

There are some rebels in history that we celebrate as heroes:

George Washington and **his army** fought the American Revolution **to rebel against the tyranny of a British king named George III**. And many of the Britts are still sore about losing that war to this day!

Those of us who were born and bred by the grace of God south of the Mason-Dixon Line are **sometimes known as “rebels”** in honor of our Civil War ancestors.

There are many books and films available that paint **some rebels** as heroes of sorts. These **rebels** may be misfits who are **always in trouble at school**, or maybe **always in trouble with the law**, or maybe they were **standing alone for some cause, living life on their own terms, answering to nobody else, a sort of law unto themselves!**

That may sound pretty inspiring, but **there’s a problem when you start translating rebellion into real life because it is NOT socially acceptable!**

Teachers and principals tend to frown upon students who disrupt class by disobeying the rules.

Parents don’t see that **rebellious** son or daughter as a hero—and by the way, neither does God!

The criminal who refuses to obey the law of the land doesn’t get awards for his brave rejection of society’s laws (unless he or she is a politician as of late). The lawbreaker usually gets some time in the slammer and rightfully so!

The hard-headed and/or hard-hearted man or woman who is too stubborn and rebellious to listen to those who love them not only aren’t very easy to live with, but they can reek havoc on one’s family!

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Now we know man’s problem **began with rebellion** in the Garden of Eden **and rebellion has continued to be a problem throughout the centuries to this very day**. God said for Adam and Eve not to eat from that particular tree in the Garden of Eden and yet they **rebelled** and ate! And here we are!

Listen to Moses speak about **Israel’s rebellion** near the end of his life: *Deuteronomy 31:27 “For I know thy **rebellion**, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, **ye have been rebellious against the LORD**; and how much more after my death?”*

Later on the Levites made this confession about their forefathers in Nehemiah *Nehemiah 9:16-17 “16 But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments, 17 And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their **rebellion** appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.”*

Listen to what the Prophet Samuel told King Saul about his disobedience: *1 Samuel 15:23 “For **rebellion** is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”*

We’ve seen how King David rebelled against the LORD by, as the Prophet Nathan put it, *“despising the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight.”*

Because he sowed rebellion, he reaped rebellion in his family, especially in the life of his son Absalom as we have clearly seen!

The Bible reminds us time and time again that **rebellion is one of our big problems as sinners** and if we’re not careful, **our rebellion will ruin us!**

Proverbs 17:11 “An evil man seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.”

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We ALL need to be reminded of the dangers of living our lives in **rebellion against God and against the legitimate authorities He has placed in our lives!** (And listen, if we are in rebellion against the legitimate authorities God has placed in our lives, then we are in rebellion against Him too!)

I. BE CAREFUL BECAUSE DISCONTENTMENT CAN FUEL REBELLION IN THE HEART! (19:41-43; 20:1)

e.g. Absalom's Earlier Rebellion!

e.g. The Seeds of Discontentment Still Linger! (19:41-43)
Now this one called Sheba!

II. BE CAREFUL BECAUSE REBELLION CAN CAUSE ONE TO REJECT GOD'S LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY (THEREBY REJECTING GOD'S AUTHORITY!) (20:1-2)

King David is back on the throne of Israel as king once again.

Remember that **David was the rightful king of Israel all along!** Absalom was not! David was the rightful King NOT because everybody liked him, **because they didn't! He was the rightful King, plain and simple, because God chose him as king!**

But we see here in *Vs. 1* that **Sheba rejects David's authority, and as he does so, he is rejecting God's authority.**

Now, **why did Sheba reject David's authority?**

One reason may be because **Sheba got caught up in the dissension** that was going on in the last three verses of *Chapter 19*, because he was there according to *20:1!*

Dissension among brethren can be a dangerous thing! That's because too often people get caught up in dissension, they react wrongly, and cause a world of hurt to others!

Another reason could have been that Sheba was from the tribe of Benjamin—the clan of the previous king of Israel—King Saul!

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Perhaps Sheba was still angry over **Saul's rejection by God and David's acceptance by God as king of Israel.** When leadership changes there are sometimes those who just can't let go of the past!

It's not entirely clear why Sheba starts up this **rebellion** against David's authority other than what it says about his character there in *verse 1*. **Rebellious actions come from a rebellious heart and a rebellious heart comes from a wrong character of the heart!**

One thing is clear! **David was God's legitimate authority for Israel and this rebel had no respect for him.**

This is something all **rebels** share in common—a **rejection of authority.** *"Nobody tells me what to do!"* For a **rebel** rules are made to be broken. **A rebel doesn't need or want anybody else's help, or advice.**

"David is not my king!" (Where have we heard that?
"Trump is not my president!")

"I'm not going to listen to my parents! They're almost too stupid to breathe! I know what's best for me! I want what I want and I want Delilah!" (Samson)

"Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice? He ain't nobody to me!" (Pharaoh)

"Go to Ninevah? Hah, not me buddy I'm heading to Joppa and catching me a boat to Tarshish!" (Jonah)

When you look in the mirror, **do you ever have a rebel staring back at you in defiance against someone or something?** That's a dangerous thing! **It's dangerous because especially if that rebellious attitude causes you to reject some God placed legitimate authority in your life that He's put there for your protection!**

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When you reject that legitimate authority that God put there you don't see it as rejecting God Himself, but God does!

Children can get discontent with their parents and think in their hearts:
“Why should I do what my parents tell me to do?” Well, how about
Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

“Well, I'll do it but I ain't got to like it or have a good attitude in it!”
Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

“Why should I do what my teacher, or the law demands?”
Romans 13:1 “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”

Are there exceptions to these rules of obeying authorities? Sometimes, but most of us don't deal with the exceptions. Most of us live life under the normal circumstances addressed by the rule, and the rule is this:

When we reject a legitimate authority in our life, we are rejecting the authority of God! We are being a rebel!

Just as surely as Sheba rebelled against David, he also rebelled against God!

Someone with a rebellious heart might say, *“So what if I decide to live my life as a rebel, I'm only hurting myself, right?”*

No, we don't have time to deal with this tonight, but Lord willing, next Wednesday night we'll see that we need to be careful **because rebels always, always, always...hurt other people!**

And we'll see it right here in this passage!