

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL  
THE DANGER OF REBELLION–PART 2  
2 SAMUEL 20:1-26

**Introduction**

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.**

We've seen how David rebelled against God in his disobedience to God's law.

**Because he sowed rebellion, he reaped rebellion in his family and in his nation!**

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!**

We said that 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 make no mistake about it, 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)*

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

*Rebellious actions come from a rebellious heart and a rebellious heart comes from having 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.*

III. **WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL BECAUSE REBELS ALWAYS HURT OTHER PEOPLE! (Vs. 3-13)**

Too many times we see it happen or hear about it happening even in our day!

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Too often we hear of someone who has been arrested and convicted multiple times for drunk driving and lost their license in the process but they decide to get back behind the wheel again anyway!  
*(Their attitude is basically "Nobody gonna tell me I can't drive!")*

So this rebel gets back in a vehicle. And he's drunk again (imagine that)! He plows into another vehicle and his life as well as the lives of other people are changed for the rest of their lives because of those he kills and/or injures in the process of his **rebellion!**

Now he didn't really intended on hurting anybody when he got behind the wheel! Nevertheless, his **rebellion** affected others in a great way!

**We see this principle in Scripture:**

A. **We See The Example Of Absalom. (Vs 3)**  
**Vs. 3 takes us back to the effect of the actions of another rebel: David's son Absalom.**

Remember how back in **2 Samuel 16:21-22** after Absalom chased David out of the palace, under the counsel of Ahithophel, Absalom did something to shame his own dad and to consolidate his own power!

Absalom went in to his father's concubines and had relations with them in the sight of all Israel. These women didn't have a choice in the matter! He forced himself on them!

Now Absalom is dead, but the legacy of his **rebellion** lives on! These ten women, whom he made a part of his **rebellious ways**, are now considered unclean by their culture!

It was unthinkable and unlawful for King David to again have relations with these women. **Absalom's rebellion made these women outcasts!**

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Only David's mercy kept these women in the palace and cared for instead of being kicked out!

Worse than that, they were denied the most precious right of an Israelite woman—the right to bear children. They had to live the rest of their lives as widows, all because of **the reckless ambition of a rebel!**

**B. We See The Example Of Joab. (Vs. 4-13)**

These verses tell how another **rebel** named Joab **spread his own pain and death to others.**

Remember how that Joab had been David's captain of his army, until he was replaced by this fellow Amasa who had been the captain of Absalom's army.

Now we see David gave orders to Amasa to gather the men of Judah together and come back with them in three days time. The purpose being to go put down this **rebel** Sheba!

But when Amasa ran into some problems, David sent Abishai instead (Abishai was the brother of Joab.) At some point while Abishai was heading after Sheba, Joab and his men joined the ranks. Then Amasa showed up.

Joab, dressed in his battle armor, rode up to the unsuspecting Amasa and greeted him in **verse 9!**

Understand that they were related to one another— Amasa and Joab were cousins.

As he stepped closer, Joab allowed his sword to fall out of its sheath, and in a display of affection in the East, he grabbed Amasa by the beard as if to greet him with a kiss. Instead, with his left hand he thrust his sword far into the abdomen of Amasa, and Amasa's insides came gushing out.

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Now why did Joab do it? Why did he kill this man who was not only his relative, but also on the same side in this particular battle?

Could it be because King David put Amasa where Joab used to be—The captain of David's army? **Jealousy?** Most probably!

The Bible doesn't explain it but **we can see that this had to be Joab's way of rebelling against King David's decision on this!**

Whatever the reason, Joab here **proved himself to be a rebel.** He was merciless as he left this poor Amasa in the middle of the highway to wallow in his own blood!

**Rebels always hurt others. How do I know? I've seen it time and time again as I've served in many years of ministry!**

**I've witnessed rebellious children hurting their parents!**  
**I've witnessed rebellious parents hurting their families!**  
**I've witnessed rebellious believers hurting their Church!**  
I could go on!

When someone is living in **rebellion** and says, "*I'm not hurting anybody but myself.*" That's a lie!

When you **rebel**, you hurt everybody who loves you, everybody who depends on you!

**Rebellion** can break the hearts of the people who love you most! **But worst of all rebellion breaks the heart of God!** *Isaiah 65:2 "I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;"*

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**Rebellion** will produce ripples of pain and agony that affect everyone around you in some way. **And if the rebel doesn't repent of their rebellion, they learn the hardest lesson of all through—God's judgment of their rebellion!**

**IV. REBELS ARE ON THE ROAD TO DESTRUCTION! (v. 14-26)**

You cannot **rebel** against God or against His legitimate authority and get away with it!

**A. The Example Of Sheba.**

Here in **verse 14**, we see the story goes back to this **rebel** Sheba, who is on the run and has made it all the way to the town of Abel on the outskirts of Israel.

This was a town known for wisdom! Yet they had this **rebellious** fool hiding in their midst! They probably had no idea who he was or why he came to town!

**Verse 15**

Joab geared up for attack against this city and began to batter the walls to knock them down, even though the citizens of Abel weren't exactly sure why they were being assaulted.

**Verse 16-21**

We see this nameless wise woman of the city called for Joab to listen to her. She wanted to know why he had come out to kill innocent people. But Joab explained to her here, that he was only after this one man.

So, we see here how this **rebel** almost caused this town to be attacked! (Refer to the previous point!)

This wise woman said she would throw Sheba's head over the wall.

**Verse 22**

So we see that this wise woman went to the people of this city and they captured Sheba and cut his head off.

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She threw it over the wall to Joab! And so Joab and his men retreated back to Jerusalem with Sheba's head to prove he was a done deal!

So we see that destruction ultimately came to this **rebel** Sheba!

Do you suppose this is how Sheba expected his story to end? Probably not. No doubt he would rather have gone on to become somebody great, somebody big, somebody important.

He might have thought that this **rebellion** of his might bring him to greatness but it brought him only destruction and shame!

If he had never **rebelled** against David, he might could have lived to a ripe old age. But **rebellion** stole his future from him.

**B. The Example Of Joab.**

What about this other **rebel**, Joab? He seems at first to get away with his **rebellion**. But the story is NOT over! Later on, during King Solomon's reign, the Bible tells us in **1 Kings 2:28-35** that Joab's rebellion catches up with him, too.

This is one of the biggest answers to the question: **what's wrong with being a rebel? Because it's not very smart. You never really get away with it. Rebels are on the road to destruction!**

You can thumb your nose at God and His legitimate authorities for awhile—but not forever. Sooner or later, you will either answer to those authorities or to God Himself! Sooner or later **rebels** come to the end of the road and meet their Judge!

There is a **rebel** in each one of our hearts—a part of us that doesn't want to obey, surrender or submit to anybody—not even God. But being a **rebel** is foolish.

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It's not very smart, because **rebels** are traveling on a road that leads to disaster and destruction.

*On Oct. 22, 1999 professional parachutist Jan Davis was practicing the dangerous sport of BASE jumping—parachuting off fixed objects like high cliffs or towers. She was making her jump off the 3200 foot granite cliff of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park. She knew BASE jumping had been outlawed because of 6 others who had died doing the same thing she was doing. Her own jump was meant as protest, to prove that BASE jumping was safe. Yet still she stood at the top of the mountain and leapt off, and as her husband and several others watched, her parachute did not open properly, and Jan Davis fell for 20 seconds before she crashed to her death. Jan Davis paid for her rebellion with her life.*

Now that may sound foolish to us and we might say, “*I’d never do that!*” But it’s no more foolish than willfully **rebelling** against God and the legitimate authorities that He has set up in the world.

Don’t be a **rebel**. The cost is too great! And if you are in the midst of **rebellion**, confess and forsake it for the sin that it is and get back to God!