

# **ANONYMOUS PERSONALITIES OF THE BIBLE**

**TOPIC: THE WISE WOMAN WHO SAVED HER CITY**

**SCRIPTURE: II SAMUEL 20:1-22**

**MEMORY VERSE: HEBREWS 12:1**

## **Lesson 1            The Wise Woman Who Saved Her City**

**INTRODUCTION:** When King David was in his mid-sixties, his oldest living son, Absalom, led a rebellion to overthrow David as king of Israel. A terrible civil war broke out in the land of Israel between David's army and Absalom's army. Absalom's army was defeated and Absalom was killed in the battle. (II Samuel 18:6-17) The tribes of Judah and Benjamin immediately welcomed David back as king of all Israel. The other ten tribes of Israel felt that they were left out of the welcoming ceremonies, and began to argue with the men of Judah and Benjamin. (II Samuel 19:41-43) This argument between the tribes led some of the men of the northern tribes of Israel to start a new rebellion against King David. One of David's own men saw his opportunity to be king, and called these rebellious men to follow him in the new revolt. The man's name was "*Sheba*" and he was of the tribe of Benjamin. (II Samuel 20:1-2) King David immediately sent his army to put down the rebellion of Sheba. The rebels following Sheba fled north to the town of Abel-Beth-Maachah. There, David's army caught up with them, and launched an all-out attack upon the small town. Everyone in the town would have been killed in the battle except for the fact that a wise woman knew what to do to save the lives of the town's people. (II Samuel 20:14-22) This wise woman's name is never recorded in the scriptures. She is simply one of the Anonymous Personalities of the Bible. There are some great lessons to learn from the story of **The Wise Woman Who Saved Her City**.

### **I.     THE CITY OF THE WISE WOMAN**

II Samuel 20:14-15 - ". . . *in Able of Beth-Maachah. . .*"

Sheba had apparently intended to make Abel-Beth-Maachah his home base as he plotted to organize the armies of the northern tribes of Israel.

ABEL-BETH-MAACHAH - "*meadow of the house of oppression*" - This town in northern Israel was located about 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee (see also I Kings 15:20)

A.     This city had a traitor in it

II Samuel 20:14 - ". . . *unto Abel-Beth-Maachah. . .*"

SHEBA (II Samuel 20:1) - "*an oath; promise*" - Sheba was the son of Bichri ("*firstborn*")

Sheba is a picture of Satan:

- 1) Sheba rebelled against King David just as Satan rebelled against God. (Isaiah 14:12-15)
- 2) Sheba led some of King David's servants to rebel against their king just as Satan led some of God's angels to rebel against their God. (Revelation 12:4, 9)
- 3) Sheba was a man of Belial ("*wickedness*") just as Satan is the father of all wickedness. (II Samuel 20:1; Matthew 13:38)

B. This city was about to be destroyed

II Samuel 20:15 - ". . .*they came and besieged him in Abel-Beth-Maachah. . .*"

Sheba is a picture of sin:

- 1) Sheba's sin caused the entire city to come under the curse of King David's army just as Adam's sin caused the whole world to come under the curse of God. (Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 5:12)
- 2) Sheba's sin would bring about death and destruction just as Adam's sin had brought about death and destruction. (Romans 6:23) Ecclesiastes 9:18 - ". . .*one sinner destroyeth much good.*"

## II THE CRY OF THE WISE WOMAN

II Samuel 20:16-17 - "*Then cried a wise woman out of the city. . .*"

A. The wise woman saw that her city was doomed

- 1) There was a traitor inside their city (II Samuel 20:14)
- 2) They were all guilty of harboring the traitor since they had all allowed the traitor to come into their city
  - a. the old were guilty
  - b. the mothers were guilty
  - c. the young were guilty
  - d. the men were guilty
  - e. the fathers were guilty
  - f. the women were guilty

Galatians 3:22 - "*But the scripture hath concluded all under sin. . .*"

B. The wise woman did all she could to save her city

The wise woman is a picture of the soulwinner for she did all she could to keep her city from being destroyed.

Proverbs 11:30 - "*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*"

- 1) She pleaded with Joab the captain of David's army (II Samuel 20:16-17) - The name Joab means "*Jehovah is my father.*" Joab is a picture of the Lord Jesus for Jehovah is Jesus' Father. Pleading with Joab is a picture of prayer just as when a Christian prays for his loved ones that they also might be saved. Romans 10:1 - "*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.*"
- 2) She went to tell her city that they could be saved (II Samuel

20:22a) - After talking with Joab (picture of prayer), this wise woman went to tell her city the good news. The word Gospel means "*good news.*" (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15) Have you done all you can to see your city saved?

### III THE COUNSEL OF THE WISE WOMAN

II Samuel 20:22 - "*Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. . .*"

- A. She told her city the price that was required for them to be saved (II Samuel 20:22)

Her city was doomed to be destroyed by the armies of Joab unless Sheba ("*the promised one*") died. The wise woman reasoned with the people of her city to yield up Sheba. Only by the death of Sheba could her city be saved.

Isaiah 1:18 - "*Come now let us reason together saith the Lord. . .*"

- B. She counseled her city that it was better for one to die than for the whole city to die

II Samuel 20:22 - "*. . .they cut off the head of Sheba. . .*"

The people of Abel-Beth-Maachah saw the wisdom of the wise woman, and executed Sheba in order for their entire city to be saved. About a thousand years later, Caiaphas the high priest would have the exact same attitude concerning the Lord Jesus: John 11:50 - "*. . .it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.*"

**CONCLUSION:** Sheba the son of Bichri, was a man of Belial ("*wickedness*") but Jesus the Son of God, was the holy Lamb of God Who became sin for sinful man that by His death man might be saved. (II Corinthians 5:21) The Bible never mentions the name of the wise woman of Abel-Beth-Maachah. She simply loved her CITY, CRIED out and COUNSELED with her people to see her city saved. She is one of the great *Anonymous Personalities of the Bible.*"

**TEACHERS' TIP:** There are two kinds of people in every church: The *Saints* and the *Ain'ts*.

**NEXT MEMORY VERSE:** Galatians 1:8

# Lesson 1 Study Sheet

Give the “*picture*” of each of the following:

SHEBA is a picture of \_\_\_\_\_.

SHEBA is also a picture of \_\_\_\_\_.

The WISE WOMAN is a picture of the \_\_\_\_\_.

JOAB is a picture of the \_\_\_\_\_.

The wise woman TALKING to Joab is a picture of \_\_\_\_\_.

Name definitions:

ABEL-BETH-MAACHAH means \_\_\_\_\_

SHEBA means \_\_\_\_\_

BICHRI means \_\_\_\_\_

JOAB means \_\_\_\_\_

BELIAL means \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blanks:

1. One of King David’s own men, whose name was \_\_\_\_\_ rebelled so that he could be king.
2. The rebellious army fled to the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The wise woman of this city saw that her city was doomed because they were harboring a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. This wise woman spoke with \_\_\_\_\_ and knew they must kill Sheba to save her city.
5. The wise woman counseled with her \_\_\_\_\_ and they agreed that it was better for one traitor to die than for their entire city.