

34. The Book of 2Samuel—19:40-20:2

“Not My King!”

(3/26/17)

In chapter 19 of 2Samuel, David is returning to Jerusalem after the revolution was defeated—the revolution that was led by his son Absalom who was subsequently killed while trying to escape.

After Absalom’s death, the northern tribes of Israel were first to talk about bringing David back as their king—but his own tribe of Judah (his blood relatives) hadn’t said anything about it.

So, he sent Zadok and Abiathar, the priests, to the elders of Judah to ask them why they hadn’t invited him back yet—what were they waiting for?

I think the problem was that since the tribe of Judah had heavily backed Absalom in the revolution—there was doubtless a heavy dose of fear as to what David might do to them once he became king again.

However, it seemed that David anticipated their fears and told the priests to say to the elders of Judah—*“All is forgiven, I am conferring amnesty on all that sided with Absalom in the rebellion.”*

2 Samuel 19:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ So he swayed the hearts of all the men of Judah, just as *the heart of* one man, so that they sent *this word* to the king: "Return, you and all your servants!"

So that becomes the background of our text this morning—

2 Samuel 19:40-43 (NKJV)

⁴⁰ Now the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him. And all the people of Judah escorted the king, and also half the people of Israel. ⁴¹ Just then all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, "Why have our brethren, the men of Judah, stolen you away and brought the king, his household, and all David's men with him across the Jordan?" ⁴² So all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "Because the king *is* a close relative of ours. Why then are you angry over this matter?... ⁴³ And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, "We have ten shares in the king; therefore we also have more *right* to David than you. Why then do you despise us--were we not the first to advise bringing back our king?" Yet the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

In some ways this is kind of humorous because, only a few weeks earlier, they were fighting *against* David and here, they're fighting *over* him—this is the fickle heart of man!

One pastor put it well—

"When you're serving Jesus and ministering to people, know this: The same people who one week cried, "Hosanna!" the next week cried, "Crucify Him!" Unfortunately, we all have these tendencies because the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). That is why Paul said it was the love of Christ that constrained, or motivated him (2 Corinthians 5:14)."

Apparently, what happened to cause the ten northern tribes to get into this brouhaha with the tribe of Judah (which included the tribe of Simeon) was that they didn't wait for all the men of Israel (northern tribes) to get to Gilgal so that *all* of them might escort the King back to Jerusalem.

The rhetoric got pretty heated as Israel accused Judah of 'stealing away' ("kidnapping") the king from them.

Judah replied that David was from their tribe (he was family), so they had 'first dibs' on escorting him back to Jerusalem.

Israel shot back that because they had ten tribes loyal to David, they had ten shares in the king and therefore David belonged to them more than to Judah who only had two shares.

As I said, the argument got pretty heated—“**Yet the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.**” (v.43)

Now, that exchange brings us into chapter 20 where this conflict leads to rebellion and civil war between Israel and Judah—all spearheaded by a man named Sheba.

2 Samuel 20:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ And there happened to be there a rebel, whose name was Sheba the son of Bichri, a Benjamite. And he blew a trumpet, and said: "We have no share in David, Nor do we have inheritance in the son of Jesse; Every man to his tents, O Israel!" ² So every man of Israel deserted David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah, from the Jordan as far as Jerusalem, remained loyal to their king.

In the Hebrew, the word ‘**rebel**’ in v.1 is literally ‘*Belial*’.

‘Belial’ is a word that means ‘worthless’, ‘base’, ‘wicked’, ‘lawless’—we would say that Sheba was a low-life trouble making rabble-rouser—he was a rebel who refused to accept David as his king.

He very much reminds me of those rebels in our own country who refuse to accept Donald Trump as their president.

When Sheba cried, “**We have no share in David**”—he was in effect saying, “*David is not my king!*”

The rebels in our country are saying the same thing when they cry out, “*Trump is not my president!*”

In fact, on Monday, February 20th (Presidents Day), these folks held rallies around the country entitled “*Not My President Day*”.

Everyone held signs that said, "*Not My President*", they wore tee-shirts that contained those words (which you can still buy on Amazon).

You can even Google 'not my president tattoos' and see how many people have actually tattooed that statement on their bodies—although, I will give you a profanity warning.

These events were held in Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York, as those who showed up wanted to voice their opposition to the new president and his policies.

The crowds chanted things like, "*In the name of humanity, fascist America—No! No! No! No! No!*" and other catchy phrases.

Look, I didn't vote for Barack Obama for president in '08 or in 2012—and I have some pretty strong feelings about his tenure as president of our country.

But at no time did I ever say he wasn't my president—and I prayed for him and his family and for their protection all throughout his presidency.

And yet there are many people who are not only saying Donald Trump is not their president—some have even called for his assassination.

Hilary Clinton infamously called Trump supporters a 'basket of deplorables.'

But to me the basket of deplorables are those who are calling the president filthy names, beating up his supporters, destroying property at their rallies and basically acting like a group of spoiled brat thugs who are throwing temper tantrums because they didn't get the results they wanted last November.

Some of the worst offenders with regard to this are Hollywood celebrities.

Madonna said she fanaticized about blowing up the White House; and the rapper Snoop Dog just put out a music video where he's shooting Donald Trump in the head who's dressed like a clown.

There are many others like liberal cable news anchors and music celebrities who have basically hinted that violence against the president that would remove him from office (because he's so evil) would be acceptable.

As I said, Hollywood elites are among some of the worst offenders.

That bunch of overpaid prima donnas that have made millions in America but spend most of their time running the country down and telling the world what a terrible place it is.

These limonene liberals who live behind the walls of their estates and gated communities to protect *their* families—but then call average Americans Xenophobic for wanting a wall across the southern border of our country so that our families are protected from criminals, gangs and drug dealers getting in.

These people are some of the biggest hypocrites in the country who hire personal, gun-carrying body guards to protect *them*—but then have the audacity to criticize the majority of Americans who legally own guns for the protection of their families as if they're a bunch on low-life cowboys who are too stupid to do anything but 'cling to God and guns'.

How dare these godless rebels live in sin and then have the nerve to preach morality to the rest of us—and then on top of it have the unmitigated gal to throw giant celebrations each year for themselves (like the Academy Awards) where they give each other awards, pat each other on the back for being so special—and tell the rest of us how racist, homophobic, and xenophobic *we* are—like Meryl Streep did at the Golden Globe Awards in January, although she did direct most of her contempt at Donald Trump himself.

Look, people have a right to disagree with the president—but to refuse to accept him as your leader or to openly advocate anarchy against him and his administration is flat out rebellion.

1 Samuel 15:23 (NKJV)

²³ For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry...

The rebellion we're talking about this morning is the rebellion of not accepting the leader that God has put in authority over our nation—as Israel did in our passage this morning.

Look, God put David in office as king of Israel—so the rebels who were against him were not really against David, they were against God Himself who raised him up as king.

And the same is true with Donald Trump—God put him in office as president of the United States of America, and to fight against him is to fight against the God who put him in power.

In the book of Daniel, we read in chapter 4:32 that, "*the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.*"

Some would say, "*I will never believe God put Donald Trump in office as our president—he's evil and God would not use someone like that.*"

Well apparently, your harboring under the mistaken notion that God can only use 'good' people to work thru.

In Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1 God called Cyrus the Persian King "*My shepherd and My anointed*".

Folks, Cyrus was a despot, not what we would call a 'good man'—and yet God used him for the work of rebuilding Jerusalem—even as I believe He is using Donald Trump to rebuild America.

It's interesting that the first rebel in the universe was Lucifer—who didn't want God to rule over him and so he rebelled against the LORD, in essence saying, "*God isn't my God!*".

The devil was the first rebel—and he is behind all the ungodly rebellion against God and God's will, His Word and His work in this world—both today and since the beginning of time.

In 1965 Paul Harvey, beloved radio announcer, gave one of the most famous on air essays in American history—words that have since proved to be prophetic—it's called "**If I Were the Devil**":

If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I'd have a third of it's real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee [the Almighty].

So, I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first — I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'

"To the young, I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.' And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington [D.C.]...'

"And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

"If I were the devil I'd soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames.

If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

"Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money.

If I were the devil I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

“If I were the devil I'd take from those who have, and give to those who wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And what do you bet? I couldn't get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work, in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on TV is the way to be. And thus I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, **if I were the devil** I'd just keep right on doing on what he's doing.”

Satan, the first rebel has led our whole nation into rebellion against our King, Jesus Christ—the same way Sheba led the nation of Israel into rebellion against her God given king.

And yet those who are rebelling against our president justify it by saying it's okay because God would never have put Donald Trump in office.

Romans 13:1 (NKJV)

¹ Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

In Romans 13 Paul is dealing with civil government.

In every ordered society, there must be authority and submission to that authority—otherwise the result is anarchy, and anarchy leads to tyranny as people are then forced to live under 'jungle law' where 'might is right'. (Explain)

Therefore, God knows that *any* government is better than *no* government—and so God has instituted human government, and no government exists apart from His will.

Now, that does not mean that He approves of everything human rulers do—He certainly doesn't.

And the Bible clearly teaches that someday He will judge severely those that abused their power as leaders and who practiced corruption, brutality, and tyranny against those that were under their authority—their Day is coming.

But the fact remains that **the authorities (governmental authorities) that exist are appointed by God.**

Both Paul and Peter commanded us to be good citizens and to submit ourselves to governmental authorities.

We are commanded as Christians to pray for our leaders whether we agree with them or not, whether we voted for them or not—because godliness respects the office God has ordained.

Michael the archangel respected Lucifer; David respected Saul; and Daniel respected Nebuchadnezzar.

To oppose and resist the leaders that God has placed in power is to oppose and resist God Himself—as Paul went on to say—

Romans 13:2 (NKJV)

² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

Paul is telling us that anyone who disobeys or rebels against the government is disobeying and rebelling against what God has ordained—and will bring God's judgment upon them.

1 Peter 2:13-15 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of

evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men--

When Peter wrote these words, Caesar Nero was on the throne.

Caesar Nero was the man who rode naked in his chariot, shrieking at the top of his lungs in demonic laughter while he watched over one thousand Christians who had been dipped in tar and then set on fire as human torches light his garden.

And yet what did Peter say to do about Nero?

Well, he didn't say to hold rallies denouncing him or to rebel against him—he said to honor him (not the man but the office).

“Submit yourselves to every ordinance (law) of man—for the Lord's sake.”

“What if we don't agree with some laws as Christians—do we still have to obey?”

Well that depends on whether or not the laws of man contradict or conflict with the laws of God.

The only time God allows us to disobey civil government is when it passes laws that are in direct violation of God's laws.

There might be those times when we have to choose between obeying God or the government, but Paul and Peter aren't talking about that in these two epistles—they are talking about being good citizens and thus a good witness for Christ.

But, if the day ever comes when our government commands us to do what God has commanded us not to do; or not to do something God has commanded us to do—then, as Peter said, “*We must obey God rather than men.*” (Acts 5:29)

If we do someday have to disobey human government—we must always do it peacefully, non-violently and respectfully.

We must never take vengeance—“*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay says the Lord.*”

Am I suggesting we shouldn’t be engaged politically and work to change unjust laws (like abortion)?—no, that’s not what I’m saying.

Under our form of government, we can elect representatives that can go to Washington and, thru the legislative process, overturn unjust laws and pass righteous laws that will not violate what God has commanded in His Word.

But, under no circumstances should we rebel against the government or join in an attempt to overthrow it.

Do you know that the best form of government there is—is a righteous, benevolent dictatorship?

That is the strongest form of government on earth—the problem is there is no such thing as a truly righteous, benevolent human dictator—but take heart One is coming!

There is only one Man who is absolutely righteous and truly benevolent—His name is Jesus Christ!

He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings—and He is coming to establish a Kingdom on earth that will be a benevolent dictatorship. (Explain)

Until then we must pray for our leaders and be law abiding citizens—for the Lord's sake.

I'll be honest with you, there are times when I'm watching the news and I see people rebelling against this president, calling him dirty names and advocating violence against him.

And as I'm watching these 'belials'—I get so angry and I start thinking that, if I were God, I'd send a lightning bolt from heaven to wipe them out.

And as I'm sitting there stewing—the Lord speaks to my heart and says, *“What are you so angry about?”*

“These rebels, Lord! They oppose your will and the man You have chosen to lead this country—why do You let them do what they're doing, why don't You wipe them out for their rebellion!?”

“Because I love them—the same way I loved you when you were living in rebellion and sin against Me.

Phil, I've told you in My Word that they aren't your enemies, they've been taken prisoners by Satan who is using them as pawns to do his dirty work thru.

“But Lord, they're so rebellious!”

“I know, but the bottom line is—I love rebels and want with all My heart to make them My sons and daughters.”

“Even those people in Hollywood Lord!?”

“Yes even those people in Hollywood. Love the rebels, pray for them—but don’t hate them.

They need salvation just like you did—only then will they stop being rebels and start honoring Me with their lives.

Phil, you represent My on earth—if My people won’t love the lost, who will?”

“Yes Lord, forgive me. Please fill me with Your Spirit that I might love the rebels with Your love.

And give me grace that I might devote my life to turning those who are right now saying, “Jesus is not my King”—

To those who will someday bow their knee and say to Him, ‘You are my King, I love You and I will do all that You have commanded.’”

The gospel is all about redeeming rebels!

May God help us to always remember that.