

41. Wise Woman of Abel

2 Samuel 20:16-22 NLT

Then cried a wise woman out of the city, Hear, hear; say, I pray you, unto Joab, Come near hither, that I may speak with thee. And when he was come near unto her, the woman said, *Art thou Joab?* And he answered, *I am he.* Then she said unto him, Hear the words of thine handmaid. And he answered, I do hear. Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask counsel at Abel: and so they ended the matter. *I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful in Israel: thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?* And Joab answered and said, Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. The 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. Then 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. (KJV)

But a wise woman in the city called out to Joab, “Listen to me, Joab. Come over here so I can talk to you.” As he approached, the woman asked, “Are you Joab?”

“I am,” he replied.

So she said, “Listen carefully to your servant.”

“I’m listening,” he said.

Then she continued, “There used to be a saying, ‘If you want to settle an argument, ask advice at the city of Abel.’ I am one who is peace loving and faithful in Israel. But you are destroying a loyal city. Why do you want to destroy what belongs to the LORD?”

And Joab replied, “Believe me, I don’t want to destroy your city! All I want is a man named Sheba son of Bicri from the hill country of Ephraim, who has revolted against King David. If you hand him over to me, we will leave the city in peace.”

“All right,” the woman replied, “we will throw his head over the wall to you.” Then the woman went to the people with her wise advice, and they cut off Sheba’s head and threw it out to Joab. So he blew the trumpet and called his troops back from the attack, and they all returned to their homes. Joab returned to the king at Jerusalem. (NLT)



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ABEL	DESTROY	REVOLTED
AGAINST	ENDED	SEEKEST
APPROACHED	EPHRAIM	SETTLE
ARGUMENT	HANDMAID	SHEBA
ATTACK	HITHER	SPAKE
BELONGS	JOAB	SWALLOW
BICHRI	LEAVE	THROWN
BICRI	LIFTED	TROOPS
COUNSEL	LOVING	TRUMPET
DELIVER	MOUNT	WISDOM