

“There Was A Little City”
Ecclesiastes 9:13-18

Introduction: In our text, we see a parable that Solomon gave that may refer back to II Samuel 20:14-26. We find, in this chapter, how the sword never departs from the house of David. Sheba rose up a rebellion against King David (vs. 1-2). David put Amasa in charge to assemble the men of Judah to battle against Sheba (vs. 4-6). Due to his delay, David sent Abishai, with Joab’s men and others, to get the job done. During the pursuit of Sheba, Joab grabbed Amasa (one of his family members) by the beard and slew him (vs. 7-13). David (I Kings 2:5-6) condemned this action. Joab and his men continued to pursue Sheba, and finally caught him in Abel of Beth-maachah (vs. 14-15). While in the city, a wise woman cried out to Joab. She asked him not to destroy the city. Joab informed her that he was not coming to ruin the city, but to capture Sheba. The woman announced this in the city and they delivered up the head of Sheba (vs. 16-22). This chapter concludes with a review of David’s officers (vs. 23-26). Although the story varies some, there are a few similarities.

1. The Battle of the City II Samuel 20:14- “they were gathered together”
2. The Besieging of the City II Samuel 20:15- “besieged him in Abel of Beth-maachah”
3. The Building around the City II Samuel 20:15- “they cast up a bank against the city”

Body: Not only does this have an earthly story, but it also contains a heavenly meaning. This city represents the world and the citizens are the sinners in it. The “great king” typifies Satan and the “poor wise man” is a type of Christ. These sinners were besieged by sin and Jesus is the mighty deliverer that rescues them. After the great deliverance, they do not return to thank the poor man. His words were not heeded and his character was blighted.

- I. The Calculation of the City 9:14- “a little city”
 - A. Notice Its Size- “little” (small)
 - B. Notice Its Status- It was very unimportant and insignificant to some.
- II. The Citizens of the City 9:14- “few men within it” Luke 13:22-23
 - A. They Were Few
 - B. They Were Feeble
 - C. They Were Fearful
- III. The Conqueror of the City 9:14- “there came a great king against it”
 - A. The Battle of the City- “came a great king against it”
 - B. The Besieging of the City- “and besieged it”
 - C. The Building around the City- “built great bulwarks against it” II Corinthians 10:4 (Why did the “great king” build such a battlement against the city? Maybe he knew that the “poor wise man” was in it.)

- IV. The Campaign for the City 9:15-16- “a poor wise man” Zechariah 9:9, Mark 6:3, II Corinthians 8:9
- A. The Deliverance of the Poor Man 9:15- “by his wisdom delivered the city”
Luke 2:40, 46-47, 52, Colossians 2:3
 - B. The Disregarding of the Poor Man 9:15- “no man remembered” Luke 17:11-19, Luke 22:19, I Corinthians 11:24
 - C. The Despising of the Poor Man 9:16- “the poor man’s wisdom *is* despised”
Isaiah 53:3
 - D. The Disrespect of the Poor Man 9:16- “his words are not heard”

Conclusion: It is amazing that such a small city was spared from the “great king” by a “poor wise man”. We know that Jesus possesses all power, both in heaven and in earth. Saints should praise Him for this and His mighty deliverance. Solomon truly said it best when he stated, “Wisdom *is* better than weapons of war” (9:18).