

September 22, 2011 Gals of Scripture study

The Wise Woman of Abel

Her Character: Rather than passively waiting for someone else to save her city, she had the wisdom and courage to act quickly and decisively.

Her Sorrow: That her city, though faithful to the king, was besieged by his army because it had been infiltrated by a rebellious leader.

Her Joy: That she was able to successfully intercede for the town, thus averting disaster for many innocent people.

Key Scripture: Second Samuel 20:14-22

Abel Beth Maacah is thought to be present Abil, Israel



Abel Beth Maacah - a mother in Israel. Photo by Ferrell Jenkins.

Our photo, looking east, shows the massive mound thought to be the site of Abel-Beth-Maacah. This photo was made in early May. Abel-beth-Maacah is mentioned in at least two other passages.

1. The city was conquered by Ben-hadad, king of Aram [Syria] (1 Kings 15:20).
2. The city was captured by Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria, in the days of Pekah of Israel. This information taken from <http://ferrelljenkins.wordpress.com/2010/09/17/abel-beth-maacah-%E2%80%94-a-mother-in-israel/>

The majority of the information (other than Scripture) for tonight's study came from *Women of the Bible* written by Ann Spangler and Jean E. Syswerda, published by Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan and copyrighted 1999.



http://www.bible-history.com/map_israel_judah/

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2 Samuel 20:1 describes Sheba.

From 2 Samuel 20:3-7, 14 we learn this had been a long and hard man hunt from Jerusalem to Abel.

2 Samuel 20:15

1. In your own words, describe what you think it might have been like for a mother with several small children within the city walls of Abel.

2. While it is unlikely that you or your family have ever been in this same situation, there are many households today that are under a siege of some sort. Abuse, financial misfortune, grief, illness - whether physical or mental - all can hold a family captive. Do you know someone in such a situation? A child? Another woman? A teen? What can you do to help?

2 Samuel 20: 16-17

3. What do Joab's terse words reveal about his reaction to this brave woman?

4. Have you ever been in a situation where the wise thing to do also required bravery? Did you do it? Why or why not?

2 Samuel 20:18-19

5. What might have given the town of Abel the reputation described here? What does this tell you about its inhabitants?

6. Where do you go when you need answers?

2 Samuel 20: 20-22

7. What is your reaction to what the town of Able did with Sheba? Do you think the bargain they struck with Joab was a good one? Why or why not?

8. The facts of this story are physically brutal and disturbing, but the facts of life for many today in our society are just as brutal. How can you be a wise woman in your corner of the world?