

## ~AMASA 1 (176)

(A-ma'sa) [shortened form of Amasiah]

- Son of David's sister or half sister Abigail and Jether or Ithra, and cousin of Absalom and Joab.
- And **Amasa** was the one whom Absalom put in the place of Joab over the army, and **Amasa** was the son of a man whose name was Ithra the Israelite, who had relations with Abigail the daughter of Nahash, the sister of Zeruiah, Joab's mother. (2 Samuel 17:25)
- And their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail, and the sons of Zeruiah were Abishai and Joab and Asahel, three. (1 Chronicles 2:16)
- As for Abigail, she gave birth to **Amasa**, and the father of **Amasa** was Jether the Ishmaelite. (1 Chronicles 2:17)
- Jether is called an Israelite in Samuel and an Ishmaelite in Chronicles, perhaps because he lived in Ishmaelite territory. Some contend that **Amasa** is to be identified with **Amasai**, one of those who joined David's army at Ziklag, but such an identification is uncertain.
- And spirit itself enveloped **Amasai**, the head of the thirty. Yours we are, O David, and with you we are, O son of Jesse. Peace, peace be yours, and peace to the one helping you, for your God has helped you. So David received them and put them among the heads of the troops. (1 Chronicles 12:18)
- Years later, when **Amasa** threw in his lot with Absalom's rebellion against David, he was put over Absalom's army in place of Joab.
- And **Amasa** was the one whom Absalom put in the place of Joab over the army, and **Amasa** was the son of a man whose name was Ithra the Israelite, who had relations with Abigail the daughter of Nahash, the sister of Zeruiah, Joab's mother. (2 Samuel 17:25)
- The rebellion was suppressed, David's son Absalom was killed by Joab, and **Amasa** was offered the place of Joab as David's army chief, for as David said; He is my bone and my flesh.

- Eventually Absalom found himself before the servants of David. And Absalom was riding upon a mule, and the mule got to come under the network of boughs of a massive big tree, so that his head got caught fast in the big tree, and he was taken up between the heavens and the earth, as the mule itself that was under him passed along. (2 Samuel 18:9)
- Then a certain man saw it and told Joab and said; Look! I have seen Absalom hung in a big tree. (2 Samuel 18:10)
- At this Joab said to the man who was telling him; And here you saw it, and why did you not strike him down to the earth there? Then it would have been my obligation to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt. (2 Samuel 18:11)
- But the man said to Joab; And although I were weighing upon my palms a thousand pieces of silver, I should not thrust my hand out against the king's son, for in our hearing it was that the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying; Watch, whoever you are, over the young man, over Absalom. (2 Samuel 18:12)
- Otherwise I should have dealt treacherously against his soul and the whole matter itself would not be hidden from the king, and you yourself would take a position off on the side. (2 Samuel 18:13)
- To this Joab said; Let me not hold myself up this way before you! With that he took three shafts in his palm and proceeded to drive them through the heart of Absalom while he was yet alive in the heart of the big tree. (2 Samuel 18:14)
- Then ten attendants carrying Joab's weapons came around and struck Absalom, that they might put him to death. (2 Samuel 18:15)
- And to Amasa you should say; Are you not my bone and my flesh? So may God do to me and so may he add to it if you will not become the army chief before me always instead of Joab. (2 Samuel 19:13)
- Again rebellion broke out, this time Sheba wanted no share in David.

- Now there happened to be there a good-for-nothing man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri a Benjaminite, and he proceeded to blow the horn and say; We have no share in David, and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Every one to his gods, O Israel! (2 Samuel 20:1)
- At that all the men of Israel began to go up from following David to follow Sheba the son of Bichri, but as for the men of Judah, they stuck to their king from the Jordan to Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 20:2)
- **Amasa** was given three days to assemble an army. When he did not come at the fixed time, Abishai was told to take David's servants and pursue the rebels. Abishai's brother Joab and his men went with them in the pursuit of Sheba. Finally, when the latecomer **Amasa** met them, Joab, pretending to give an affectionate kiss, grabbed **Amasa** by the beard with one hand and used the sword in his other hand to rip **Amasa's** abdomen open.
- The king now said to **Amasa**; Call the men of Judah together to me within three days, and you yourself stand here. (2 Samuel 20:4)
- So **Amasa** went to call Judah together, but he came later than the fixed time that he had appointed for him. (2 Samuel 20:5)
- Then David said to Abishai; Now Sheba the son of Bichri will be worse for us than Absalom. You yourself take the servants of your lord and chase after him, that he may not actually find for himself fortified cities and escape before our eyes. (2 Samuel 20:6)
- Accordingly the men of Joab and the Cherethites and the Pelethites and all the mighty men went out after him, and they went on out of Jerusalem to chase after Sheba the son of Bichri. (2 Samuel 20:7)
- They were close by the great stone that is in Gibeon, and **Amasa** himself came to meet them. Now Joab was girded, clothed with a garment, and upon him there was girded a sword attached to his hip, in its sheath. And he himself came forth, and so it fell out. (2 Samuel 20:8)

- And Joab proceeded to say to **Amasa**; Is it all right with you, my brother? Then Joab's right hand took hold of **Amasa's** beard so as to kiss him. (**2 Samuel 20:9**)
- As for **Amasa**, he was not on guard against the sword that was in Joab's hand, so that he struck him with it in the abdomen, and his intestines spilled out to the earth, and he did not have to do it to him again. So he died. And Joab and Abishai his brother, for their part, chased after Sheba the son of Bichri. (**2 Samuel 20:10**)
- And a certain one of Joab's young men stood over him and kept saying; Whoever has found delight in Joab and whoever belongs to David, let him follow Joab! (**2 Samuel 20:11**)
- All the while **Amasa** was wallowing in the blood in the middle of the highway. When the man saw that all the people stood still, then he moved **Amasa** from the highway to the field. Finally he cast a garment over him, as he saw that everyone coming up to him stood still. (**2 Samuel 20:12**)
- This may have been deserved recompense for **Amasa's** siding with Absalom but certainly not at the hand from which it came. David therefore commanded Solomon that **Amasa** should be avenged through the death of Joab.
- And you yourself also well know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me in what he did to two chiefs of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner and **Amasa** the son of Jether, when he killed them and placed the blood of war in peacetime and put the blood of war on his belt that was about his hips and in his sandals that were on his feet. (**1 Kings 2:5**)
- And Yehowah will certainly bring back his blood upon his own head, because he fell upon two men more righteous and better than he was, and he proceeded to kill them with the sword, when my father David himself had not known of it, namely, Abner the son of Ner the chief of the army of Israel and **Amasa** the son of Jether the chief of the army of Judah. (**1 Kings 2:32**)