

2nd Samuel Chapter 15

- Absalom is the oldest son and heir apparent to the crown. He no sooner receives the kiss of forgiveness than he uses his regained freedom to undermine his father's throne – not content to wait for it.
- God was chastening David, but David knew that God's power could still help him in the hour of pain as well as in the hour of conquest.

Psalm 3:2-3 “²Many there be which say of my soul, there is no help for him in God. Selah. ³But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.”

- David recognized that God's loving hand of discipline was upon him, and he yielded to it.
- David also knew that God's gracious hand was still working in his life, that his Lord had not forsaken him.

V: 1 Chariots and 50 men to run before him, trying to look like a king, marketing himself, appearing stately and kingly, exalting himself. Primping might be another way of putting it.

Psalm 75:6-7 “⁶For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. ⁷But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and sitteth up another.”

V: 2-4 Absalom arrives at the city gates early every day, where business is conducted, where judgment is given, he intercepts those who would go to the king for judgment; he ingratiates himself to the people and at the same time slights the king, makes him appear less than caring or upright, that he is somehow meeting an un-met need.

- “Your matters are good and right” – when you're in a controversy you're glad to have someone side with you (I wonder what he did if both parties showed up...).
- “There is no man deputed....” Deputized, authorized to hear these cases – meaning the king doesn't care.
- “If I was made judge, I would do the right thing, I would do justice, un-like others who won't be mentioned”... meaning the king. He is undermining the king.

Proverbs 6:16-19 “¹⁶These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: ¹⁷A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”

V: 5-6 Any man that tried to thank Absalom or be humble before him, he would allow it to a point then take him up and hug him and kiss him, treating them like an old friend – further ingratiating himself to them, demonstrating how much he loved and cared for the people.

- In this way Absalom intentionally stole the heart of the people.

Romans 16:18 “For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”

V: 7-9 After 40 years? 40 years since David was first anointed by Samuel, 40 years since the beginning of David’s reign, after Absalom’s 40th birthday, or as some claim possibly a copyist error intended to mean after 4 years – no one really knows.

- Absalom asks permission to go to Hebron to pay a vow, which David allows.
- Absalom lies about his intentions, it has nothing to do with serving the Lord; he is in fact aligning himself against the anointed of the Lord.

Psalms 105:15 “Saying, touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.”

- Hebron is where Absalom was born, it is the capital of Judah, it’s where David was first anointed to be king by the people, and it might be home to some disgruntled Israelites who resented the capital being moved from Hebron to Jerusalem.
- Hebron is also just far enough away to allow him to get some traction, get things in motion without interference from those who would be loyal to David in Jerusalem.

V: 10-12 Absalom sent spies, campaign workers, into all the tribes – to manipulate all the people – that they would join with Absalom’s camp in declaring Absalom to be king.

- Absalom recruits Ahithophel, the grand father of Bathsheba, David’s closest and most trusted advisor.
- As he was at his home in Gilo, just West of Bethlehem and on the way to Hebron – as he was offering sacrifices.
- Only supposed to offer sacrifices at the Tabernacle where the Ark was?
- A crime becomes a conspiracy when more than one person becomes involved in its planning and execution – and Ahithophel becomes a co-conspirator, just as guilty as Absalom.

V: 13-15 David is informed that the people are gathering around Absalom, that he has won or stolen their hearts:

25 years prior:

2 Samuel 5:1-3 “¹Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. ²Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the Lord said to thee, thou shalt feed My people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel. ³So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the Lord: and they anointed David king over Israel.”

- David was a warrior, a servant, and a shepherd who won the hearts of the people, Absalom is a “celebrity” – he looks good but lacks any real substance.
- David intends to flee Jerusalem lest there be a civil war and he be caught in that place of having to fight his own son.
- The king’s servants, his loyal servants are prepared to fight to save their king, but the king wouldn’t allow it, he opts to leave and let God sort it out.

V: 16-18 All of David’s household, minus 10 concubines leave the palace in Jerusalem along with the royal guards, the Cherethites, Pelethites, and Gittites.

V: 19-23 The loyalty of a friend.

- Ittai the Gittite: Ittai means “With God”, the fact that he was a “Gittite” means that he was from the Philistine city of Gath. He demonstrates a tremendous commitment to David, “in life and in death I’m with you!”

Romans 14:8 “For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s.”

- Ittai and his family crossed over the brook Kidron with David and his entourage.

V: 24-26 The priesthood, represented by Zadok and Abiathar are still loyal to David, they accompanied David and brought the Ark of God with them.

- David re-directs the priests to take the Ark of God back to Jerusalem making it a point to place himself in God’s hands, and subject to God’s will and judgment.
- If God will show me favor then I’ll be back, if not then let Him do to me as He see’s fit.
- Just as Ittai had committed himself to David, David committed himself to God.

Romans 14:8 “For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s.”

V: 27-29 Zadok who is a seer / prophet agrees to stay behind and watch out for David’s interests and keep David informed.

- They then take the Ark of God back to Jerusalem

V: 30 As David goes up and over the Mt. of Olives on the way out of Jerusalem, they do so weeping and mourning.

- David wept on the way out; Jesus wept on the way in – He could see the fate of those who had rejected Him.
- Weeping with his head covered, bare footed? Weeping with his head covered, unable to see what would be coming, bare footed, not prepared to fight – submitted to whatever God would bring.

V: 31 David receives the grievous news of Ahithophel’s defection and immediately cries out to God to turn his counsel to foolishness.

Psalms 55:1-14 (turn to / read)

Psalms 41:9 “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”

V: 32-37 David was weeping on the ascent, but by the time he got to the top he was worshipping God.

Hebrews 13:15 “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.”

- Hushai, David’s friend met David there and sympathized with David, clothing torn and dirt on his head as a sign of grieving.
- David sends his friend back to feign himself a servant of Absalom and to counter the counsel of Ahithophel.
- Hushai can also collaborate with Zadok and Abiathar and helping to defeat Absalom from within.
- “David’s friend” – a true friend in dark times.

Psalms 3:1-8 (written as David was fleeing from Absalom.)

2nd Samuel Chapter 16

V: 1-4 Ziba (the rat) the “servant” of Mephibosheth meets David with provision and extra donkey’s to assist David (and himself).

- Mephibosheth, Jonathan’s son, Saul’s grandson: David wanted to show kindness to the house of Saul and Jonathan; he restores Mephibosheth who is lame and who thereafter eats at the kings table.
- Ziba lies about Mephibosheth saying that he’s hoping to usurp the throne, which he is not. Ziba is just adding to David’s misery.
- Sadly in his grief David believes Ziba and gives him all of Mephibosheth’s properties, which is a mistake. Sometimes we need to slow down and wait on a decision until we’re out of the heat of the moment.

Proverbs 18:13 “He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.”

V: 5-8 Bahurim, a small village between the Mt. of Olives and Jericho; one of Saul’s crazy relatives come out and rants nonsensically against David, and throwing rocks at the entire entourage.

- The man is accusing David of Saul’s down fall, exposing his own ignorance.

V: 9-14 Abishai, one of the mighty men of valor, wants to silence Shimei, but David stops him, acknowledging that it is ordained of God, knowing that he deserves that and more as part of God’s chastening to David.

- David allows God to be his defense and hopes that God will look upon his affliction and be merciful, then the party moves on and away.

James 1:19 “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”

V: 15-19 Absalom and his supporters, co-conspirators enter in and take over Jerusalem without a fight.

- Having Ahithophel at his side lends credence to Absalom’s claim to the throne.
- Hushai, David’s friend, swears allegiance to the king, but not to Absalom, it is kind of a double entendre which Absalom assumes applies to himself.

V: 20-23 Absalom asks counsel of Ahithophel how to strengthen his reign.

- Ahithophel tells Absalom to demonstrate his authority by taking his father’s concubines, this is a grievous insult to David, a definite commitment on

Absalom's part, no turning back, this action will encourage those that are following him.

- Absalom did as Ahithophel suggested, and it seemed that Ahithophel's counsel came straight from heaven; as it had been previously, but really it was simply the fulfillment of God's word to David.

2 Samuel 12:11-12 “¹¹Thus saith the Lord, behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. ¹²For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.”

- David's sin began on the roof of his house, God saw to it that the repercussions were seen from there.
- Sadly, everything that is happening is a fulfillment of those things that God said would happen as a result of David's sin.
- It should be noted that in this deep difficult time in David's life – what was the result? A deeper, closer, stronger relationship with the Lord.
- Hardship and tough times have one of two effects, they either draw us closer to God, or if we allow them, they pull us away from God – it is always our choice.
- Here we see David digging in deeper with God, choosing the way of the Lord.

1 Peter 1:6-7 “⁶Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: ⁷That the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

- All of this made him more like Jesus:
 1. Jesus was rejected by his own people and betrayed by his own familiar friend.
 2. He gave up everything for the sake of the people and would have surrendered his own life to save his rebellious son who deserved to die.
 3. Like Jesus, David crossed the Kidron valley and went up Mount Olivet.
 4. He was falsely accused and shamefully treated, yet he submitted to the sovereign will of God.

1 Peter 2:23 “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously:”