

## #8 - 7/22/2018 - Deposed & Restored - 2 Samuel 15-17

**I. Absalom's Conspiracy Part 3, Undermining David - [2 Samuel 15:1-12](#)...**<sup>12</sup> *And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh, while he was offering the sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong, for the people increased continually with Absalom.*

Absalom's half-brother Amnon raped his sister Tamar and Absalom took her into his house and seethed with hatred for Amnon for 2 years. He lied to his father, King David, and arranged for Amnon to come to his farm and murdered him and fled to his mother's former home [1]. After 5 years Absalom returns to favor with the king [2] and begins a campaign to systemically undermine the king from Jerusalem vv.1-7.

The 3rd step in the conspiracy continues after 4 years with Absalom again lying to the king by asking for permission to go Hebron to pay his vows to the Lord. David said "go in peace" vv.7-9. He sent his supporters to all the tribes of Israel asking them to organize the people and be ready for the signal proclaiming Absalom king in Hebron. Two hundred innocent men came with him. This weakened David and presented the possibility of them turning to Absalom vv.10-11. He also sent for Ahithophel, David's counselor and Bethsheba's grandfather, to come to Hebron v.12. Ahithophel had reasons turn against David and join Absalom. With all these steps the trap was set for King David.

This was an 11 year process of rebellion by Absalom against God's anointed king and his father because of bitterness resulting from the sin of his brother and father. However, make no mistake Absalom was responsible for his own sin because he exercised his free will to be bitter and rebel.

Today when we go 11 days, 11 weeks, 11 months or 11 years in bitterness, we are rebelling against Jesus our Savior. The only answer is to be in the Bible every day mediating, studying, praying and worship Jesus. Then when bad circumstances arise we can take them immediately to God, being thankful, trusting Jesus one day at a time.

**Do not harbor rebellion against God in your life for even a day! [31 Days of Prayer for Review, Confession, and Repentance.](#)**

**II. Absalom's Conspiracy Part 4, David learns the truth about the rebellion and decides to flee Jerusalem - [2 Samuel 15:13-23](#)...**<sup>13</sup> *Then a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."*<sup>14</sup> *David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise and let us flee, for otherwise none of us will escape from Absalom.*

After 11 years Absalom had turned the hearts of the men of Israel to him and David had to flee Jerusalem. His faithful servants committed to him and agreed to follow him. David left 10 of his concubines in Jerusalem to keep the house.

An interesting part, Ittai the Gittite and his 600 men left with David. David advised him to return to Jerusalem and stay out of the fight for his safety. <sup>21</sup> *But Ittai answered the king and said, "As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely wherever my lord the king may be, whether for death or for life, there also your servant will be."* <sup>B</sup> Warren Wiersbe said "This Gentile's testimony of fidelity to David is one of the great confessions of faith and faithfulness found in Scripture, like [Ruth 1:16 and Matthew 5:5-13](#)". <sup>A</sup>

This Gentile set the example for Disciples today. This reminds of this quote from the spiritual declaration I pray every day: "To my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I say: *However, Whenever, Wherever and Whatever* You ask me to do, my answer in advance is yes! I desire to obey all the commands of Jesus and the New Testament.

**Wherever You lead and whatever the cost, I'm ready: Anytime. Anywhere. Anyway. Whatever it takes Lord!"** <sup>C</sup>

Notes: A- The Wiersbe Bible Commentary-OT by Warren W. Wiersbe, page 582; B- For source click [here](#) ; B- 2 Samuel 15:21; C- For source click [here](#)

**III. Absalom's Conspiracy Part 5, David leaves Jerusalem in humility and trust in the Lord - [2 Samuel 15:24-30](#)...** <sup>30</sup> *And David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went, and his head was covered and he walked barefoot. Then all the people who were with him each covered his head and went up weeping as they went.*

Over 11 years Absalom worked a plan to take his father David's throne. In Step 5 the plan succeeds: David receives a message that Absalom is closing in on Jerusalem [[v.13](#)], and he decides to flee with his entire house [[vv.14-17](#)], except Zadok, Abiathar, and Hushai. Not only had he lost the throne that God had established for him, but he had lost it because of his own son's conspiracy, certainly a bad time that was part of the fulfillment of the promise of Nathan to David after his sin with Bathsheba [[2 Samuel 12:10-12](#)]. David confessed his sin and was forgiven by God [[2 Samuel 12:13, Psalm 51](#)], but there are consequences for sin.

Yet, David submitted in humility and trust in the Lord. When he decides for Zadok to take the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem David said: <sup>25</sup> *The king said to Zadok, "Return the ark of God to the city. If I find favor in the sight of the LORD, then He will bring me back again and show me both it and His habitation."* <sup>26</sup> *But if He should say thus, 'I have no delight in you,' behold, here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him."* [[vv.25-26](#)]

David demonstrates a total trust that the Lord is doing something good with his bad circumstances.

Disciples, God is at work in your troubles; because God is good, loving and wise, you can know that whatever He is doing in your troubles is ultimately for your eternal good. Will we rest in this truth today or live in fear, anger and bitterness?

**When you are faced with troubles, how do you typically deal with those troubles? How does David's response to his circumstances encourage you?**

#### **IV. Absalom's Conspiracy Part 6, Hushai- spy and Ahithophel- betrayer - 2**

**Samuel 15:31-37, 16:15-23...15:** <sup>31</sup> Now someone told David, saying, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O LORD, I pray, make the counsel of Ahithophel foolishness." ...<sup>34</sup> But [Hushai] if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; as I have been your father's servant in time past, so I will now be your servant,' then you can thwart the counsel of Ahithophel for me....

This story is like something out of a modern mystery story complete with a spy and betrayal. Hushai was David's servant and **friend** and wanted to leave Jerusalem but David asks him to stay and spy on Absalom. David gave Hushai a messenger system in Zadok and Abiathar, the priests, two sons [[15:35-36](#)].

This was a great risk for Hushai because Absalom was going to interrogate him before accepting him and also because of David's betrayer Ahithophel, a very wise man. David and Hushai were trusting God for protection and were willing to accept the outcome either good or bad.

Absalom entered the city with all his followers and Ahithophel. After questioning Hushai, Absalom agreed to take him as an advisor [[16:16-19](#)]. Absalom first ask Ahithophel what shall we do.

**16:** <sup>21</sup> Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself odious to your father. The hands of all who are with you will also be strengthened." <sup>22</sup> So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

Ahithophel possibly demonstrating his bitterness over David's taking his granddaughter said go in and have sex with your father's concubines; this will strengthen your hand over Israel. Absalom fulfilled another of Samuels' pronouncements on David by taking the concubines on the roof of the Palace so everyone could see [2 Samuel [12:11-12](#)].

**Ask God to help you to display true friendship by laying down your preferences, comforts, and even life for your brothers and sisters in Jesus.**

#### **V. Absalom's Conspiracy Part 7, Hushai and Ahithophel's counsel - [2 Samuel 17](#)...**

<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Please let me choose 12,000 men that I may arise and pursue David tonight. <sup>2</sup> I will come upon him while he is weary and exhausted and

*terrify him, so that all the people who are with him will flee. Then I will strike down the king alone,*

Ahithophel advice was to pursue David tonight while he is weary and exhausted. Absalom and the elders were pleased but Absalom ask for the counsel of Hushai. He replied that the wise counsleor was wrong this time. Hushai counseled to wait and concolidate all the power of Israel and then attack David and success will be yours [17:1-13].

The advice of Hushai pleased Absalom and the men of Israel and they accepted it. The battle plans were delivered at great risk by the priests Zadok and Abiathar's sons to David [17:14-21] David and his party crossed the Jordan that night to eacape Absalom and be replenished [17:22,24,27-29].

*<sup>23</sup> Now when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey and arose and went to his home, to his city, and set his house in order, and strangled himself;*

The story of Ahithophel is a sad one. He betrayed king David and when the most important part of his advice was rejected he was depressed and took his own life. There are 2 lessons in this story, [1] it is very serious when we continually reject King Jesus and there may be serious consequences; [2] we have to very careful when we counsel people to aware of serious depression that requires medical intervention. Our Pastor Heath Lambert advises leaning toward medical intervention any time there is a possibility of clinical depression.

**Bow down in worship of King Jesus each day. Humbly submit yourself to Him and to His will today. Ask Him to help you experience the glory of His kingdom today.**

## **VI. Absalom's Conspiracy Part 8, Absalom slain and David restored as king - 2 Samuel 18:1-18,19:8-15,41-43...**

**18:1-17...**<sup>14</sup> *Then Joab said, "I will not waste time here with you." So he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through the heart of Absalom while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.* <sup>15</sup> *And ten young men who carried Joab's armor gathered around and struck Absalom and killed him.* <sup>16</sup> *Then Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained the people.* <sup>17</sup> *They took Absalom and cast him into a deep pit in the forest and erected over him a very great heap of stones. And all Israel fled, each to his tent.*

The battle was intense with 20,000 men killed [v. [18:7](#)] and Absalom was killed when his head was caught fast in an oak and he was hanging until Joab and ten young killed him hanging from the oak.

King David returned and was met by many people and through the intervention of Zadok and Abiathar and some praise and grumbling was returned to his throne.

[\[19:8-15, 41-43\]](#)

It is often helpful to take a step back and think about what God is doing in the big picture. In His sovereign humans have a free will. Free will and sin causes a lot of turns in the life of David, some very bad and some good. But, God is preserving the line of David, which would one day produce our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Stand in awe today of the sovereignty of our God, who knew everything that David would go through and exactly how to bring him through it, just as He does in our lives today.

**Thank God today that He is good and wise—that He knows the beginning from the end and it is all for His glory and our good. Ask that He would help you to trust in Him today, no matter the circumstances you face.**

## **VII. Summary/application: 2 Samuel 15-19:**

### **Summary**

1. Rebellion against God does not end well for the rebel or others.
2. Be humble and trust God no matter work circumstances you find yourself in.
3. Be a friend.
4. Keep the big picture of your life in mind.

### **Application**

1. Do not harbor rebellion against God in your life for even a day! [31 Days of Prayer for Review, Confession, and Repentance](#).
2. "Wherever You lead and whatever the cost, I'm ready: Anytime. Anywhere. Anyway. Whatever it takes Lord!" [For source click [here](#)].
3. When you are faced with troubles, how do you typically deal with those troubles? How does David's response to his troubles encourage you [[2 Samuel 15:25-26](#)]?
4. Bow down in worship of King Jesus each day. Humbly submit yourself to Him and to His will today. Ask Him to help you experience the glory of His kingdom today.
5. Thank God today that He is good and wise. that He knows the beginning from the end and it is all for His glory and our good. Ask that He would help you to trust in Him today, no matter the circumstances you face.

**6. Memory verses - 2 Samuel 15:21** *But Ittai answered the king and said, "As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely wherever my lord the king may be, whether for death or for life, there also your servant will be."*

**2 Samuel 15:34** *But [Hushai] if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; as I have been your father's servant in time past, so I will now be your servant,' then you can thwart the counsel of Ahithophel for me.*

**Always Be Ready and keep a clear conscience! 1 Peter 3:15-**

**16a...**<sup>15</sup> *sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;* <sup>16a</sup> *and keep a good conscience* [NASB] Memorize in the Bible Version you prefer--for many versions click [here](#)