

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 15-16

2 SAMUEL 15:1-6 - ABSALOM STEALS HEARTS

THROUGH FLATTERY AND SUBTLE DEMEANING OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION, ABSALOM GAINS FAME IN THE NATION BY INTERCEPTING THOSE ENTERING JERUSALEM TO SEEK THE KING'S JUDGMENT. FOR THE COMMONER, UNAWARE OF THE CONFLICT IN DAVID'S HOUSE, MEETING THE PRINCE UPON ARRIVAL TO THE CAPITAL CITY, THE IMPRESSION MAY HAVE BEEN THAT ABSALOM WAS WORKING IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY, OR AT LEAST WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE KINDNESS AND PERSONAL INTERACTION OF THE KING'S SON. ABSALOM IS DOING THIS PUBLICLY, SURELY DAVID HEARS OF HIS ACTIONS. PERHAPS DAVID ASSUMES ABSALOM'S INTENTIONS ARE NOBLE. IN THIS, ABSALOM IS ABLE TO "STEAL THE HEARTS" (V. 6) OF THE NATION.

V. 5 - ABSALOM'S "HUMILITY" IS FUELED BY SELFISH AMBITION.

SUBTLE PUTDOWNS AND LEADING QUESTIONS WHICH SOW DOUBT ABOUT OTHERS CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO DIVIDE AND Demean.

2 SAMUEL 15:7-12 - ABSALOM IN HEBRON PROCLAIMS HIMSELF KING

V. 7 - "FORTY YEARS" - NASB NOTE: "SOME ANCIENT VERSIONS RENDER FOUR"

V. 7 — **HEBRON** WAS THE FIRST CAPITAL OF DAVID'S KINGDOM. IT MUST HAVE MAINTAINED A SYMBOLIC AND HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE.

V. 8-9 - CLEAR EVIDENCE HERE THAT ABSALOM IS IN REBELLION NOT JUST TO DAVID, BUT TO THE LORD. HE DECEITFULLY USES A SUPPOSED COMMITMENT TO THE LORD AS HIS COVER STORY TO HIS PLOT.

V. 12 - **AHITHOPHEL THE GILONITE** WAS AN ADVISOR TO DAVID. HIS DEFECTION IS EQUIVALENT TO A MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET JOINING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT TO USURP THE CURRENT PRESIDENT.

Q - WHY WOULD ABSALOM'S REBELLION BE EFFECTIVE IN THE LAND? WHAT FACTORS ENABLED HIM TO SO PEACEFULLY (INITIALLY) ASSUME POWER? WHAT DOES THIS SAY ABOUT ABSALOM? WHAT DOES THIS SAY ABOUT DAVID?

2 SAMUEL 15:13-17 - DAVID FLEES JERUSALEM

V. 14 - DAVID CONCLUDES THAT FOR HIS OWN SAFETY, HE SHOULD LEAVE JERUSALEM.

V. 15 - THOUGH HIS SUPPORT IN THE NATION WAS FRACTURED, DAVID STILL HAS LOYAL COMPANIONS AND SERVANTS.

Q - CAN YOU IMAGINE THIS? WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON IN DAVID'S HEART AND MIND?

2 SAMUEL 15:18-23 — MILITARY RESPONSE: ITTAI THE GITTITE PLEDGES ALLEGIANCE

V. 19-20 - ITTAI THE GITTITE WAS ONE OF DAVID'S MILITARY LEADERS. APPARENTLY HE HAD JUST ARRIVED (OR WAS ELEVATED TO HIS POST) THE DAY BEFORE ALL OF THIS BROKE OUT. DAVID OFFERS HIM THE CHANCE TO RETURN TO HIS HOME (WHICH WAS ACTUALLY THE PHILISTINE REGION OF GATH) SINCE THIS WAS NOT WHAT HE "SIGNED UP FOR". INSTEAD OF TAKING THE WAY OUT, ITTAI CONFIRMS HIS DEVOTION TO THE LORD AND DAVID IN A POWERFUL CONFESSION:

2 SAMUEL 15:21 (NLT) - BUT ITTAI SAID TO THE KING, "I VOW BY THE LORD AND BY YOUR OWN LIFE THAT I WILL GO WHEREVER MY LORD THE KING GOES, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS-- WHETHER IT MEANS LIFE OR DEATH."

2 SAMUEL 15:24-29 - THE PRIESTS RESPOND

THE PRIESTS ARE PREPARED TO LEAVE THE CITY (AND BRING THE HOLY ITEMS OF THE TABERNACLE WITH THEM), BUT DAVID ASKS THEM TO STAY. HE MAY BE OPEN TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THESE EVENTS ARE SOME SORT OF DIVINE PUNISHMENT FOR HIS SINS. AS SUCH, HE IS NOT GOING TO TAKE THE ARK WITH HIM.

THE PRIESTS WILL STAY "IN PEACE" IN JERUSALEM (V. 27). THOUGH LOYAL TO DAVID, THEY WILL SERVE THE LORD AT THE TABERNACLE DURING FOR ABSALOM AS WELL. FORTUNATELY, THEIR PRESENCE IN JERUSALEM WILL ALLOW FOR A MESSENGER SYSTEM WHICH WILL ASSIST DAVID WHILE ON THE RUN.

2 SAMUEL 15:30 - DAVID WEEPS

DAVID IS WEEPING AS HE ASCENDS THE MOUNT OF OLIVES. FROM THIS LOCATION YOU ARE IN A GOOD POSITION TO LOOK BACK OVER THE KIDRON VALLEY TO MOUNT ZION AND THE CITY OF JERUSALEM.

PSALM 3

2 SAMUEL 15:31-37 - HUSHAI WILL REMAIN IN JERUSALEM AS A SPY

V. 31 - DAVID HEARS OF AHITHOPHEL'S TREASON - ESV STUDY BIBLE: "AHITHOPHEL WAS DAVID'S TRUSTED COUNSELOR (V. 12; CF. 16:23), BUT NOW HE WAS AMONG THE CONSPIRATORS. THIS LED DAVID TO PRAY, "O LORD, PLEASE TURN THE COUNSEL OF AHITHOPHEL INTO FOOLISHNESS." HIS PRAYER WAS ANSWERED IN THE VERY NEXT VERSE BY THE ARRIVAL OF HUSHAI, WHO WOULD PROVE INVALUABLE TO HIM."

HUSHAI, A SERVANT OF DAVID WILL REMAIN IN JERUSALEM TO SERVE ABSALOM. HE WILL SERVE A NUMBER OF PURPOSES. FIRST, HE WILL BE ABLE TO COUNTER THE ADVICE OF THE TRAITOR AHITHOPHEL (V. 34). SECOND, HE WILL REPORT TO THE PRIESTS LOYAL TO DAVID (ZADOK & ABIATHAR) THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING IN THE KING'S HOUSE AND THEY WILL REPORT IT TO DAVID THROUGH THEIR SONS (V. 35-36).

2 SAMUEL 16:1-4 - ZIBA ARRIVES WITH SUPPLIES

V. 1 - ZIBA WAS THE SERVANT OF MEPHIBOSHETH, THE DISABLED SON OF SAUL. HE WAS ENTRUSTED BY DAVID IN 2 SAMUEL 9:2-13 TO CARE FOR MEPHIBOSHETH.

V. 3-4 - ZIBA TELLS DAVID THAT MEPHIBOSHETH IS ATTEMPTING TO SEIZE UPON THE MOMENT OF CRISIS IN ISRAEL TO RETURN THE KINGDOM OF SAUL'S LINE. (WHAT A WILD TIME IN ISRAEL!!) ZIBA PROFESSES HIS LOYALTY TO DAVID AND BRINGS DONKEYS, BREAD, FRUIT AND WINE. DAVID EXPRESSES HIS GRATITUDE TO ZIBA BY VERBALLY GRANTING ALL OF MEPHIBOSHETH'S LAND TO ZIBA. WE WILL LEARN IN CHAPTER 19 THAT ZIBA WAS NOT TELLING THE TRUTH AND DAVID'S PRONOUNCEMENT WAS A LITTLE HASTY, HOWEVER, GOD USES THIS TO PROVIDE FOR DAVID.

DAVID'S CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT IDEAL. IN FACT THEY ARE TRAGIC ON MANY LEVELS. THE SON HE WELCOMED HOME LED A 4 YEAR CAMPAIGN TO WIN OVER THE HEARTS OF DAVID'S KINGDOM. THAT SAME SON IS NOW LEADING AN OPPOSITION GOVERNMENT AND SOME OF DAVID'S OWN ADVISORS HAVE DEFECTED. NOW THE SON OF THE FORMER KING APPARENTLY WANTS IN ON THE ACTION AS DAVID IS FORCED OUT OF HIS HOME AND CAPITAL, CAST AWAY FROM THE ARK OF THE COVENANT AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD. HE IS IN THE WILDERNESS, ON THE RUN, YET AGAIN.

EVEN THOUGH DAVID SEEMS TO BE IN DECLINE AND THE KINGDOM HAS BEEN STOLEN, GOD IS TAKING CARE OF HIM. WHETHER PLACING HUSHAI IN THE PRESENCE OF ABSALOM, THE LOYALTY OF THE PRIESTS, THE SMALL BUT FAITHFUL BAND OF COMPANIONS, AND THE GENEROUS SUPPLY OF ZIBA. WHEN WE ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULT SEASON, GOD STILL TAKES CARE OF US. DO NOT FORSAKE HIM, FOR EVEN WHEN THE WORLD AROUND US IS CRUMBLING, HE DOES NOT FORSAKE US. OUR RELATION WITH GOD IS NOT DEPENDANT ON WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD, OR OUR IMMEDIATE CIRCUMSTANCES. OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS BASED ON FAITH.

MAY WE ECHO THE WORDS OF ITTAI THE GITTITE TOWARDS DAVID IN OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR KING, JESUS:

2 SAMUEL 15:21 (NLT) - BUT ITTAI SAID TO THE KING, "I VOW BY THE LORD AND BY YOUR OWN LIFE THAT I WILL GO WHEREVER MY LORD THE KING GOES, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS-- WHETHER IT MEANS LIFE OR DEATH."

TO CONSIDER:

- WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THINGS YOU THOUGHT WERE GOING TO WORK OUT, DON'T?
- WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE A PROMISE OF GOD MAY NOT COME TO PASS?
- WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU ARE BROUGHT LOW?
- WHAT OTHER LESSONS CAN WE TAKE AWAY FROM THIS RECORD?
- HOW IMPORTANT IS PRAISE IN TIMES OF TRIAL?