

# NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 19

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## 2 SAMUEL 19:9-10 - THE AFTERMATH OF ABSALOM'S REBELLION

V. 10 - ABSALOM IS DEAD. DAVID IS IN EXILE. THE PEOPLE ARE ESSENTIALLY ASKING "WHAT ARE WE TO DO NOW?"

## 2 SAMUEL 19:11-15 - NEGOTIATIONS TO BRING DAVID BACK

V. 11-12 - DAVID ASKS PRIESTS TO MEET WITH ELDERS OF JUDAH

V. 13 - AMASA HAD BEEN APPOINTED GENERAL OF ABSALOM'S ARMY (2 SAM. 17:25). DAVID NOW OFFERS AMASA THE LEAD GENERAL'S POSITION. THIS IS AN ACT OF COMPROMISE AND UNIFICATION, BUT IT ALSO MAY BE A DEMOTION OF JOAB FOR HIS DISOBEDIENCE TO DAVID'S COMMAND TO KEEP ABSALOM SAFE. AMASA WAS JOAB'S COUSIN AND A RELATIVE OF DAVID.

V. 14-15 - THROUGH THESE GESTURES, DAVID (PERHAPS THROUGH AMASA'S APPEAL) UNITES THE HEARTS OF JUDAH BACK WITH HIM. THE PEOPLE CALL FOR DAVID TO RETURN AND HE BEGINS HIS APPROACH BACK TO JERUSALEM.

SIDE NOTE: V. 15 - GO TO "MEET" THE KING IN LXX IS APANTESIS - THE WORD USED IN 1 THESSALONIANS 4:17 WHEN THE SAINTS WILL "MEET (APANTESIS)" THE LORD IN THE AIR." THE MEANING AND USAGE INCLUDES THE IDEA THAT THE COMPANY MEETS THE ARRIVING PARTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESCORTING THEM (USUALLY A KING) BACK INTO THE CITY. THIS IS WHAT THE NATION DID WITH DAVID AND IT WILL BE WHAT THE SAINTS DO WITH CHRIST.

## 2 SAMUEL 19:16-20 - SHIMEI'S APOLOGY TO DAVID

### FLASHBACK: 2 SAMUEL 16:5-8, 13 - WHAT SHIMEI WAS APOLOGIZING FOR

V. 20 - "YOUR SERVANT KNOWS THAT I HAVE SINNED..."

## 2 SAMUEL 19:21-23 - ABISHAI'S VIEW OF SHIMEI. DAVID'S DECISION.

DAVID SHOWS MERCY TO SHIMEI'S APOLOGY AND REPENTANCE. WHETHER SHIMEI'S ACTIONS ARE OUT OF FEAR OF PUNISHMENT NOW THAT DAVID IS KING AGAIN OR GENUINE IN HIS HEART, WE DO NOT KNOW. BUT WE DO SEE DAVID'S RETURN TO KING MARKED AGAIN BY KINDNESS AND MERCY, EVEN WHEN JUDGMENT WOULD BE REASONABLE. NOTE THE CONTRAST BETWEEN ABISHAI AND DAVID.

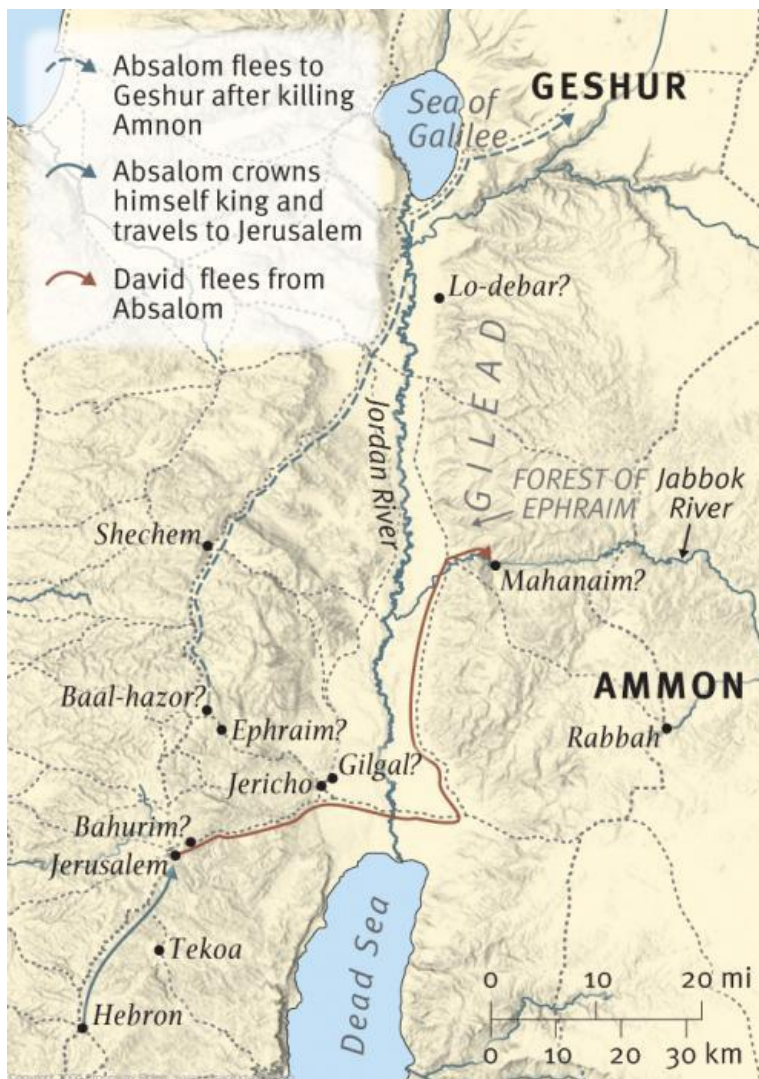
THINK ABOUT WHAT DAVID DOES HERE. HE IS NOT TAKING PERSONAL VENGEANCE, BUT LEAVING ROOM FOR GOD TO SORT OUT JUSTICE. HE DIDN'T STRIKE DOWN SHIMEI WHEN HE FIRST CURSED HIM AND DOESN'T CHOOSE TO NOW. THIS IS A QUICK TURN AROUND BUT A GOOD EXAMPLE TO US THAT GIVING THOSE WHO ARE DOING US WRONG INTO GOD'S HANDS SOMETIMES LEADS TO THINGS WORKING THEMSELVES OUT AS GOD WORKS IN OUR ENEMY'S HEART AS WE DON'T RESPOND EVIL FOR EVIL. HAD DAVID STRUCK DOWN SHIMEI WHEN HE FIRST CURSED HIM, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO WAY FOR RECONCILIATION. DAVID IS NOT FOLLOWING JESUS' COMMAND TO "LOVE YOUR ENEMIES" BUT WE DO SEE THE PRINCIPLE AT WORK IN THIS SITUATION.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SAID THE FOLLOWING:

"NOW THERE IS A FINAL REASON I THINK THAT JESUS SAYS, 'LOVE YOUR ENEMIES.' IT IS THIS: THAT LOVE HAS WITHIN IT A REDEMPITIVE POWER. AND THERE IS A POWER THERE THAT EVENTUALLY TRANSFORMS INDIVIDUALS. THAT'S WHY JESUS SAYS, 'LOVE YOUR ENEMIES.' BECAUSE IF YOU HATE YOUR ENEMIES, YOU HAVE NO WAY TO REDEEM AND TO TRANSFORM YOUR ENEMIES. BUT IF YOU LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT AT THE VERY ROOT OF LOVE IS THE POWER OF REDEMPTION...THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT LOVE THAT BUILDS UP AND IS CREATIVE. THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT HATE THAT TEARS DOWN AND IS DESTRUCTIVE. SO LOVE YOUR ENEMIES." (SERMON AT DEXTER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, ON NOV. 17, 1957)

FLASHBACK: 2 SAMUEL 16:1-4 - ZIBA MEETS DAVID

2 SAMUEL 19:24-30 - MEPHIBOSHETH TELLS DAVID THE REAL STORY



2 SAMUEL 19:31-40 - BARZILLAI REMAINS HOME

V. 32 - BARZILLAI WAS ONE OF THE MEN WHO HAD HELPED DAVID DURING HIS TIME IN EXILE (SEE 2 SAMUEL 17:27-29). NOW ADVANCED IN AGE AND MORE PHYSICALLY LIMITED TO THE KING'S SERVICE, REQUESTS TO RETURN HOME TO GILEAD, RATHER THAN ACCOMPANY THE KING BACK TO JERUSALEM.

DAVID WILL NOT FORGET THE KINDNESS OF BARZILLAI. YEARS LATER, AS HE CHARGES HIS SON AND PREPARES TO DIE THE FOLLOWING IS RECORDED:

1 KINGS 2:1-2, 7 (NIV) - WHEN THE TIME DREW NEAR FOR DAVID TO DIE, HE GAVE A CHARGE TO SOLOMON HIS SON. 2 "I AM ABOUT TO GO THE WAY OF ALL THE EARTH," HE SAID. "SO BE STRONG, SHOW YOURSELF A MAN...7 "BUT SHOW KINDNESS TO THE SONS OF BARZILLAI OF GILEAD AND LET THEM BE AMONG THOSE WHO EAT AT YOUR TABLE. THEY STOOD BY ME WHEN I FLED FROM YOUR BROTHER ABSALOM.

THIS REMINDS ME OF THE SECOND TERM OF SOME PRESIDENTS. THE FIRST TERM IS ACCOMPANIED WITH GREAT FANFARE AND EXCITEMENT. THERE IS CURIOUS SPECULATION AS TO WHO WILL FILL THE VARIOUS CABINET POSITIONS. SOMEONE IS APPOINTED TO LEAD THE TRANSITION TEAM AND THERE IS POSITIVE EXPECTATION IN THE NATION (AT LEAST AMONGST THOSE WHO VOTED FOR THE CANDIDATE). AND THEN WHEN THE SECOND

TERM COMES, MANY OF THE CABINET OFFICIALS STEP DOWN, GET REPLACED, RETIRE ETC AND THE PRESIDENT SCRAMBLES A LITTLE MORE TO FIND FOLKS FOR THE JOBS. COMPARABLY, THERE IS LITTLE EXCITEMENT OR INTEREST IN WHO THOSE FOLKS BE. THIS IS WHAT DAVID IS EXPERIENCING. NEW GENERALS, SOME OLD SERVANTS STAYING WITH HIM, SOME RETURNING HOME. NEW NAMES AND FACES JOIN IN FOR THIS ODDLY NEW, AND FINAL ADMINISTRATION OF HIS REIGN AS KING.

2 SAMUEL 19:41-43 - ISRAEL & JUDAH FIGHT OVER DAVID

V. 41-42 - THE OTHER TRIBES ARE UPSET THAT THEY DIDN'T GET THE HONOR OF ESCORTING DAVID FROM THE JORDAN TO JERUSALEM. JUDAH REPLIES THAT THEY WENT BECAUSE DAVID IS FROM THEIR TRIBE AND THAT THROUGH THIS PROCESS THEY RECEIVED NO SPECIAL FAVORS OR TREATMENT FROM DAVID. THE 10 OTHER TRIBES REPLY:

2 SAMUEL 19:43 (NLT) - "BUT THERE ARE TEN TRIBES IN ISRAEL," THE OTHERS REPLIED. "SO WE HAVE TEN TIMES AS MUCH RIGHT TO THE KING AS YOU DO. WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO TREAT US WITH SUCH CONTEMPT? WEREN'T WE THE FIRST TO SPEAK OF BRINGING HIM BACK TO BE OUR KING AGAIN?" THE ARGUMENT CONTINUED BACK AND FORTH, AND THE MEN OF JUDAH SPOKE EVEN MORE HARSHLY THAN THE MEN OF ISRAEL.

HOW QUICKLY THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE CHANGE. FROM FOLLOWING ABSALOM, WHO "STOLE THEIR HEARTS" TO NOW FIGHTING OVER WHO GETS TO ESCORT DAVID BACK TO THEIR THRONE BASED ON WHO HAS "RIGHTS" OVER HIM. DAVID HAS GOT TO BE QUIETLY CHUCKLING AT THE SQUABBLING OF HIS CHILD-LIKE SUBJECTS. THIS ALSO HIGHLIGHTS THE DIVISION BETWEEN THE 10 TRIBES AND THE TRIBE JUDAH WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD TO THEIR DIVORCE AFTER SOLOMON'S DEATH. IN THE MEANTIME, THE NARRATIVE OF THESE LAST CHAPTERS DO NOT EMPHASIZE THE LORD'S PRESENCE AMONGST HIS PEOPLE. THE LAST TIME DAVID ENTERED JERUSALEM IT WAS WITH FANFARE, REJOICING AND SACRIFICE. THIS TIME IT SEEMS THAT THE NATION JUST WANTS TO GET BACK TO NORMAL LIFE AND THE STATUS QUO.

WE HAVE TO CONTINUALLY ASSESS OUR LOVE, PASSION AND DEVOTION TO THE LORD. ARE WE LIVING FOR HIM AND SERVING HIM BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM AND ARE IN AWE OF HIM? OR ARE WE GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS? ATTENDING MEETINGS, GATHERINGS, AND EVEN ACTIVE IN OUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE OR BIBLE STUDY...BUT FORGETTING THE WHOLE REASON AND PURPOSE OF WHY WE ARE DOING THESE THINGS? BECAUSE THE LORD IS GREAT AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED - NOT JUST IN OUR OUTWARD ACTIONS - BUT FROM OUR HEARTS!