

11/15/09

2Sam. 15-16

David has allowed Absalom to return the Jerusalem, after two years without consequences for his murder of Amnon and after two more years he reconciled with Absalom completely.

A mistake on David's part, for though he was a shrewd and wise warrior, he was a foolish and terrible father that brought destruction on himself.

1. By being a bad example to his children.
2. By not confronting them with their sin and consequences.
3. By being naive and indifferent to their evil, encouraging their sinful life-style and provoking them against him.

The rebellion of Absalom is laid out for us in the following four chapters. 2Sam. 15-18

15:1-6 The brash steps of Absalom to overthrow his father David.

15:1-4 The strategy of Absalom.

- 1) Absalom begins to position himself for the kingdom, visibly. vs. 1
- 2) Absalom would display himself early in the morning at the gate of the city for the king's judgments. vs. 2

a) Anyone who had a lawsuit.

b) Absalom would call to him and say, "What city are you from?" and they would declare their tribe.

- 3) Absalom would insinuate the kingdom of his father was uncaring and inefficient, having no one to hear the cases. vs. 3
- 4) Absalom indicated he would do a better job and give them justice. vs. 4

15:5-6 The deceptiveness of Absalom.

- 1) Absalom manipulated the people through hypocritical love, as they bowed he would take them by the hand and kiss them. vs. 5
- 2) Absalom conducted himself like this to all Israel who came to the king for judgment and he stole the hearts of the men of Israel. vs. 6

15:7-12 The deceptive plan for Absalom's rebellion.

15:7-9 The lie presented to David.

- 1) Absalom asked permission to go to Hebron to fulfill a vow to Yahweh. vs. 7
 - a) Hebron was where Absalom was born, when David first reigned as king over Judah, for 7 1/2 years. 2Sam. 5:5
 - b) The word forty is taken by most to be four, after Absalom was reconciled to

David, for David only reigned for forty years in total.

- 2) Absalom presenting himself as the servant, who had vowed when he was in exile at Geshur in Syria, if he returned to Jerusalem, he would serve God. vs. 8
- 3) David gave him permission and sent Absalom off in peace. vs. 9

15:10-12 The preparation to overthrow David.

- 1) Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, declaring that at the sound of the trumpet, all were to say, “Absalom reigns in Hebron!” vs. 10
- 2) Absalom invited two hundred men from Jerusalem, but they were ignorant about the conspiracy. vs. 11
- 3) Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David’s counselor, from his city--from Giloh--while he offered sacrifices. vs. 12a-e
- 4) The conspiracy grew strong, the people with Absalom continually increased in number. vs. 12f-g

15:13-23 **The flight of David from Jerusalem.**

15:13-18 The news of Absalom’s conspiracy reached David.

- 1) A messenger came to David, declaring, “The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom.” vs. 13
- 2) The perspective of David regarding Absalom. vs. 14-15
 - a) David told all his servants with him at Jerusalem, the needed to flee, lest they be defeated suddenly. vs. 14a-f
 - b) And the city be destroyed with the sword. vs. 14g
 - c) The servants responded, “We are your servants, ready to do whatever my lord the king commands.” vs. 15
- 3) David was followed by all his household, leaving ten women, concubines, to keep the house. vs. 16
- 4) David the king stopped at the outskirts to observe those leaving with him. vs. 17-18
 - a) The phrase “the outskirts” “merchaq” means distant place, possibly the last limits of the city. vs. 17
* I am sure thinking if he would ever see Jerusalem again!
 - b) David observed them, as they passed before him. vs. 18
 - 1)) Then all his servants passed before him; and all the Cherethites, personal bodyguard.
 - 2)) The Pelethites, were personal messengers.

- 3) All the Gittites, from Gath.
- 4) The six hundred men who had been with David at Gath, passed before the king.

15:19-23 The conversation of David with Ittai.

- 1) David told Ittai the Gittite, he did not have to go with them, being a foreigner from his own land. vs. 19
- 2) Gittite had only arrived the day before, there was no need for him to go but return, commending him to mercy and truth. vs. 20
- 3) Gittite would not hear of it, pledging his presence and life for the king. vs. 21
- 4) David yielded to Gittite and all his men and little ones crossed over. vs. 22
- 5) The lamentation was great. vs. 23
 - a) All the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people crossed over. vs. 23a
 - b) The king himself also crossed over the Brook Kidron, and all the people crossed over toward the way of the wilderness. vs. 23b-c
 - * Jesus crossed the Brook Kidron the night before His betrayal, seeing the blood of the sacrificed lambs that prefigured His own death, on his way to the Garden. Jn. 18:1

15:24-31 **The priest with the ark followed David.**

15:24-26 The priest Zadok and the ark was sent back by David.

- 1) Zadok and all the Levites bore the ark, as they set it down, Abiathar went up until all the people had finished crossing over from the city. vs. 24
- 2) Zadok was told by David to carry the ark of God back into the city, if he found favor in the eyes of the LORD, He would return him, to see it and bring me back and show me both it and His dwelling place. vs. 25
 - * David would not use the ark as a mystical power for victory, like the sons of Eli.
- 3) If not he commended himself to the hands of God. vs. 26

15:27-31 The prophet Zadok was to serve as a spy for David.

- 1) Zadok the priest and prophet was to return to the city in peace, with his son, Ahimaaz and Jonathan the son of Abiathar. vs. 27
- 2) David would wait in the plains of the wilderness for information. vs. 28

- 3) Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem. And they remained there. vs. 29
- 4) The great sorrow and humiliation of David in his exodus. vs. 30
 - a) David went up by the Ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went up; and he had his head covered and went barefoot. vs. 30a-b
 - b) And all the people who were with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they went up. vs. 30c
- 5) David, received word that Ahithophel was among the conspirators with Absalom and he asked God to turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness! vs. 31
 - a) Remember, Bathsheba was his granddaughter!
 - b) David stumbled many people!

15:32-37 The loyal friend of David, Hushi, is sent back to Jerusalem.

15:32-34 The encounter was as David worshipped God.

- 1) David had come to the top of the mountain of Olives, where he worshiped God-- Hushai the Archite was coming to meet him with his robe torn and dust on his head. vs. 32

- 2) David told him he would be of greater benefit, returning and pledging allegiance to Absalom to defeat the council of Ahithophel. vs. 33-34
 - a) The Psalms deal with Ahithophel, one with the prophecy of Judas, Psalm 41. Ps. 55:12-14, 41:9, Jn. 13:18-19
 - b) David wrote some Psalms related to his flight. Ps. 3, 4

15:35-37 The partnership of Hushai and Zadok were to serve as informants for David.

- 1) Whatever Hushai heard, he was to pass on to Zadok and Abiathar. vs. 35
- 2) Their two sons, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son, would be the runners. vs. 36
- 3) Hushai, David's friend, went into the city. And Absalom came into Jerusalem. vs. 37

16:1-4 The pretentious loyalty of Ziba to David, slanders Mephibosheth.

16:1-2 The location was a little past the top of the mount of Olives.

- 1) Ziba showed up with food provisions. vs. 1
- 2) David as to their intent and he stated for their journey to the wilderness. vs. 2

16:3-4 The false accusation of Ziba about Mephibosheth.

- 1) David asked to the whereabouts of Mephibosheth. vs. 3a-b
- 2) Ziba said he was in Jerusalem delighting that God had restored him the kingdom of his father. vs. 3c-e
- 3) David gave Ziba all of Mephibosheth's possessions, to which Ziba feigned humility. vs. 4

16:5-14 The railing and insults by Shimei to David as he fled from Absalom.

16:5-8 The man Shimei was still loyal to Saul.

- 1) When King David came to Bahurim, a man from the family of the house of Saul, Shimei the son of Gera, came out, cursing continuously. vs. 5
* Bahurim was four miles from Jerusalem.
- 2) Shimei threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David, as all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. vs. 6
- 3) Shimei cursed David as a bloodthirsty man, a rogue, declaring God had paid him back by delivering the kingdom to Absalom. vs. 7-8

16:9-14 Abishi came to David's defense.

- 1) Abishai the son of Zeruiah asked to kill Shimei. vs. 9
- 2) David refused him saying perhaps God had told him to curse David, seeing his own so sought his life. vs. 10-11
- 3) David commended himself to God. vs. 12
- 4) Shimei continued cursing and throwing stones. vs. 13
* When David was dying, he told Solomon to remember Shimei and kill him. 1Kings. 2:8-9
- 5) The king and all the people who were with him became weary; so they refreshed themselves there. vs. 14

16:15-23 The Arrival of Absalom to Jerusalem.

16:15-19 The pledge of Hushai to serve Absalom.

- 1) Absalom and all the people of Israel, came to Jerusalem with Ahithophel. vs. 15
- 2) Hushai the Archite, David's friend, hailed Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" vs. 16
- 3) Absalom questioned Hushai's loyalty. vs. 17

- 4) Hushai affirmed he agreed with God's choice of Absalom and the people. vs. 18-19

16:20-23 The council of Ahithophel to Absalom.

- 1) Absalom asked Ahithophel for counsel as to what they should do. vs. 20
- 2) Ahithophel told Absalom to defile the concubines of David his father, assuring no hope of reconciliation. vs. 21
- 3) They pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. vs. 22
 * This was prophetic of the prophet Nathan. 2Sam. 12:11-12
- 4) The advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. So was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom. vs. 22