

2 Samuel 16-19 • Chapter Study

INTRO

Absalom's coup to steal the throne of Israel from his father, King David, has been launched.

The conspiracy was long in the making; yrs in fact.

Absalom's been able to persuade some of David's loyal advisors to back the coup.

He's won the hearts of the common people through clever manipulation and empty promises.

She announced his intent to take the throne in Hebron, then marched with large force at his back on the capital at Jerusalem.

David, with less than a thousand men, decides to leave Jerusalem rather than try to seal it up against Absalom's force.

God had given him the throne. It was up to God to preserve him on it. // He would not cling to it.

So he left the city, sending back the priests who made to take the ark with them as they followed David.

Touched by their loyalty, David forbade them. The ark belonged in Jerusalem.

Then when David was told that his one-time friend and counselor Ahithophel had gone over to Absalom, he worried greatly.

Ahithophel was brilliant! With guys like that on Absalom's side, there was little hope for David coming out alive.

So when Hushai, another of his counselors, showed up saying he'd accompany David into exile,

David sent him back – asking him to attempt a counter to Ahithophel's advice.

As a court insider, he could also pass along intel on Absalom's plans.

Ch16

¹ When David was a little past the top of the mountain, there was Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth, who met him with a couple of saddled donkeys, and on them 200 loaves of bread, 100 clusters of raisins, 100 summer fruits,

and a skin of wine. ² And the king said to Ziba, "What do you mean to do with these?" So Ziba said, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the

wine for those who are faint in the wilderness to drink." ³ Then the king said, "And where is your master's son?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is staying in Jrz, for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will restore the

kingdom of my father to me.'" ⁴ So the king said to Ziba, "Here, all that belongs to Mephibosheth is yours." And Ziba said, "I humbly bow before you, that I may find favor in your sight, my lord, O king!"

You may remember, shortly after David became king, he made an inquiry after survivors of his friend Jonathan, Saul's son, so he could honor the vow he'd made to protect his descendants.

Ziba was chief steward of Saul's property and was brought to David to help in the inquest.

Ziba said the only son of Jonathan he knew about was Mephibosheth.

David then gave Mephibosheth all that had belonged to his grandfather Saul.

He assigned Ziba to continue on in his role as chief manager of Mephibosheth's estate while Meph himself would live with David in the palace as a perpetual honored guest.

As David fled, Ziba met him with badly needed provisions. David asked where Meph was.

Ziba said he was back in Jrz, hoping to regain the throne. But Ziba was making all this up.

Meph hadn't left with David because he was lame & knew he'd slow him down.

So he'd stayed behind knowing Abs might very well kill him as a potential threat.

Ziba lied in the hope he could steal Meph's estate.

He didn't want to be a **manager** anymore. He wanted to be the **owner**.

David's erred in passing judgment without hearing the whole matter & both sides.

***Anyone** called on to render judgment needs to keep in mind not to be hasty in decisions.

Wait and get **both** sides, searching out the truth of the matter.

Pro 18:17 // The 1st 1 to plead his cause *seems* right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.

It was easy for David to assume the worst of Meph when his own son was rebelling against him.

⁵ Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came. ⁶ And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David. And all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

Though David had been incredibly gracious to Saul's relatives, many held deep resentment toward David. Shimei was 1 of them.

He saw David's distress as an opp to pile on. // He threw stones & profane insults at the king.

⁷ Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue!" ⁸ The Lord has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the Lord has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you *are caught* in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!"

What happened to Saul was his own fault. // No blame lay with David.

In truth, David had **NOT** killed Saul when he had the chance, twice!

But facts meant nothing to Shimei. There was no reasoning with him.

He's one of those you see at rallies, holding a sign with some absurd political remark on it.

⁹ Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!"

Ah, Abishai! Bless your little heart // **Killing** a guy for throwing stones & insults isn't really a good course.

Watch David's response to Abishai ...

¹⁰ But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah?"

Abishai had 2 brothers = Joab's & Asahel. They formed the core of David's mighty men.

These guys were studs! = Total warriors; the Bible's answer to the Greek's Achilles, Hector, & Perseus.

But they were hot-heads // David rebukes them: [Asahel was already dead = 2Sam2]

^{10b} So let him curse, because the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David.' Who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?' " ¹¹ And David said to Abishai and all his servants, "See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now *may this* Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the Lord has ordered him. ¹² It may be that the Lord will look on my affliction, and that the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing this day."

Who knows, David suggests, Shimei's abuse may be part of the discipline God's putting him to.

If he were to resist, it would only prolong the agony for God would find some other way.

If Shimei **wasn't** part of God's discipline, then God would undo the abuse because God loves justice.

David had such complete trust in God he wouldn't resist the circumstances.

If they were part of God's plan, it was best to go along with them.

If not, as D submitted to them **anyway**, God would come to his aid & rescue him, rewarding his faith.

¹³ And as David and his men went along the road, Shimei went along the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went, threw stones at him and kicked up dust.

Turns out, Shimei **wasn't** part of God's discipline of David.

But he's a fitting picture of the role the enemy plays to **condemn** while God works to **correct** us.

While Shimei **wasn't** part of that correction, Absalom's rebellion was.

God used it to weed the sins of lust, impatience, betrayal, & corruption out of David.

Every step eastward was another reminder of the foolishness of sin.

David was quickly becoming Vaedictorian of the Class of 948 BC of **UGD** = University of God's Discipline.

At the same time God did a **good** work by **correcting** David, the devil ran alongside trying to **confuse** David & thwart the work of God.

You see, David knew Shimei's charges were false // It would be easy to grow **indignant & defend** himself.

Once on that path, it would be cake to resist the work the Spirit.

Just as Shimei threw stones & hurled dust in the air, the enemy aims to **confuse, condemn, & discourage** us by throwing lies at us.

If he can get us busy dodging stones, he knows we may also turn away from the **legitimate** work of the Spirit.

David provides a good model for how to deal with the Shimei's of life; **ignore** them!

If they're really from God you don't want to resist // If they aren't, there's really nothing they can do.

By **reacting** to them you only **empower** them.

¹⁴ Now the king and all the people who *were* with him became weary; so they refreshed themselves there.

With the supplies Ziba brought.

¹⁵ Meanwhile Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem; and Ahithophel *was* with him.

¹⁶ And so it was, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" ¹⁷ So Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?" ¹⁸ And Hushai said to Absalom, "No, but whom the Lord and this people and all the men of Israel choose, his I will be, and with him I will remain. ¹⁹ "Furthermore, whom should I serve? *Should I not serve* in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father's presence, so will I be in your presence." When challenged, Hushai said his loyalty was **to the throne**, not a man.

In the **strict** sense, that was true.

The thing is, Hushai knew David **was** the real king & was only **in** Absalom's court to serve David.

²⁰ Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give advice as to what we should do." ²¹ And Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go into your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; and all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strong." ²² So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went into his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. ²³ Now 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.

David & Absalom had a history of being at odds & patching things up.

Absalom's supporters were uneasy about Absalom's determination to **go thru** with the coup.

He needed to do something to make it clear there'd be no reconciliation with Dad.

Ancient kings affirmed their succession to the throne by taking over the royal harem of the preceding king.

BTW: did you notice **where** the tent was set up – WHERE Absalom committed adultery with David's wives?

On the top of the house. Where was the last time we saw that location?

EVERYTHING that's happening to David now is the result/consequence of that fatefully evening he strolled round his roof.

Such a seemingly small thing: A lingering gaze on a naked woman.

It wasn't the gaze that was so important. It was the DECISION to gaze rather than turn away.

Ch17

Since we covered a good part of ch17 Sunday, we'll be brief with it tonight.

¹ Moreover Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Now let me choose 12K men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight. ² I will come upon him while he *is* weary and weak, and make him afraid. And all the people who *are* with him will flee, and I will strike only the king. ³ Then I will bring back all the people to you. When all return except the man whom you seek, all the people will be at peace." ⁴ And the saying pleased Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

The 2nd part of Ahithophel's counsel was that while Absalom was busy with the concubines, he'd personally lead an attack on David.

No one need die except the old man.

This is where Ahithophel tips his hand & reveals the bitterness that's driving him as we saw Sunday.

The whole reason he joined Absalom's rebellion was to exact reevege for Uriah & Bathsheba, his granddaughter.

⁵ Then Absalom said, "Now call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he says too." ⁶ And when Hushai came to Absalom, Absalom spoke to him, saying, "Ahithophel has spoken in this manner. Shall we do as he says? If not, speak up." ⁷ So Hushai said to Absalom: "The advice that Ahithophel has given *is* not good at this time.

⁸ "For," said Hushai, "you know your father and his men, that they *are* mighty men, and they *are* enraged in their minds, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field; and your father *is* a man of war, and will not camp with the people. ⁹ Surely by now he is hidden in some pit, or in some *other* place. And it will be, when some of them are overthrown at the first, that whoever hears *it* will say, 'There is a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.' ¹⁰ And even he *who is* valiant, whose heart *is* like the heart of a lion, will melt completely. For all

Israel knows that your father *is* a mighty man, and *those* who *are* with him *are* valiant men.

¹¹ Therefore I advise that all Israel be fully gathered to you, [**not just a paltry 12K**] from Dan to Beersheba, like the sand that *is* by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person.

Huishai appeals to the ever vain Absalom. = “Don’t let Ahithophel take credit for killing David. YOU do it!”

¹² So we will come upon him in some place where he may be found, and we will fall on him as the dew falls on the ground. And of him and all the men who *are* with him there shall not be left so much as one. ¹³ Moreover, if he has withdrawn into a city, then all Israel shall bring ropes to that city; and we will pull it into the river, until there is not one small stone found there.” ¹⁴ So Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “The advice of Hushai the Archite *is* better than the advice of Ahithophel.”

Uh, NO! It wasn’t. But

For the Lord had purposed to defeat the good advice of Ahithophel, to the intent that the Lord might bring disaster on Absalom.

¹⁵ Then Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests,

These guys were on David’s side and sent him secret messages.

“Thus and so Ahithophel advised Absalom and the elders of Israel, and thus and so I have advised. ¹⁶ Now therefore, send quickly and tell David, saying, ‘Do not spend this night in the plains of the wilderness, but

speedily cross over [**the Jordan**], lest the king and all the people who *are* with him be swallowed up.’ ” ¹⁷ Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz [**sons of the two priests who carried the message sot David**] stayed at En Rogel, for they dared not be seen coming into the city; so a female servant would come and tell them, and they would go

and tell King David. ¹⁸ Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom. But both of them went away quickly and came to a man’s house in Bahurim, who had a well in his court; and they went down into it. ¹⁹ Then the woman took and spread a covering over the well’s mouth, and spread ground grain on it; and the thing was not known.

²⁰ And when Absalom’s servants came to the woman at the house, they said, “Where *are* Ahimaaz and Jonathan?” So the woman said to them, “They have gone over the water brook.” [**Kidron**] And when they had searched and could not find *them*, they returned to Jerusalem. ²¹ Now it came to pass, after they had departed, that they came up out of the well and went and told King David, and said to David, “Arise and cross over the water quickly. For thus has Ahithophel advised against you.” ²² So David and all the people who *were* with him arose and crossed over the Jordan. By morning light not one of them was left who had not gone over the Jordan.

So David and his supporters got away.

He only starts out with about 600 but that number is going to grow as news of the rebellion spreads to the entire land.

Turns out the number of those who supported the rebellion had maxed out.

As word of what’s happened spreads, those backing David grows dramatically.

Absalom is regarded as a usurper.

²³ Now when Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he saddled a donkey, and arose and went home to his house, to his city. Then he put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died; and he was buried in his father’s tomb.

When Absalom rejected his wise counsel on how to win in preference for Hushai’s advice, he knew the rebellion was doomed and his chance to exact revenge on David was over.

The hope of that revenge is what had kept him alive.

So he goes home, sets his affairs in order, and commits suicide.

There’s a time break now. Remember, Hushai said Absalom needed to rally more troops.

What happened was that when the messengers went out, all they did was notify people of David’s need for support.

Finally the time for battle comes.

²⁴ Then David went to Mahanaim. And Absalom crossed over the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

²⁵ And Absalom made Amasa captain of the army instead of Joab. This Amasa *was* the son of a man whose name *was* Jithra, an Israelite, who had gone in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruah, Joab’s mother. Mahanaim, where David took his stand was an important city on the Jabbok River in the region of Gilead.

Absalom rallied the army of Israel, put his cousin **Amasa** as commander over it, just as Joab was David's commander.

²⁶ So Israel and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilead. ²⁷ Now it happened, when David had come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the people of Ammon, Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo Debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim, ²⁸ brought beds and basins, earthen vessels and wheat, barley and flour, parched *grain* and beans, lentils and parched *seeds*, ²⁹ honey and curds, sheep and cheese of the herd, for David and the people who *were* with him to eat. For they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness."

It was dangerous for these guys to supply David. // It Absalom won, they'd face fierce retribution.

But they did it out of love & loyalty toward David.

How this had to both **encourage** David & serve all the more to **break him** of his betrayal of Uriah.

Romans 2:4 says it's the **kindness** of God that brings us to repentance.

I don't know about you, but I am far more moved to be reconciled to God by the message of the Cross than by the threat of judgment.

Ch18

¹ And David numbered the people who *were* with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

That he made capt of Ks meant there were now thousands to captn.

² Then David sent out 1/3rd of the people under the hand of Joab, 1/3rd under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruah, Joab's brother, and 1/3rd under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the people, "I also will surely go out with you myself." ³ But the people answered, "You shall not go out! For if we flee away, they will not care about us; nor if half of us die, will they care about us. But *you are* worth 10K of us now. For you are now more help to us in the city." ⁴ Then the king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood beside the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and by thousands.

The army was divided into 3 battalions to cover the main approaches to the city.

David planned on leading the overall force himself but the troops knew he was the prize that would determine the battle.

A chance arrow striking David would mean Absalom's victory, so they said the best chance they had of winning was for David to stay safe in Mahanaim.

⁵ Now the king had commanded Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, saying, "*Deal* gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains orders concerning Absalom. ⁶ So the people went out into the field of battle against Israel. And the battle was in the woods of Ephraim. ⁷ The people of Israel were overthrown there before the servants of David, and a great slaughter of 20K took place there that day.

⁸ For the battle there was scattered over the face of the whole countryside, and the woods devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

David's 3 battalions rejoined forces after clearing the approaches to the city & faced Absalom's force in a densely wooded area along the eastern side of the Jordan.

David's supporters were veterans under proven military leaders.

They easily routed Absalom's upstarts, killing 20K & scattering them in forests so tangled, many never made it out.

As the troops headed out, David told them to be merciful to Absalom when they caught him.

David still loved & wanted to be restored to his wayward son.

The problem is, there's only one way a rebellion like this can end, with the death of either David or Absalom.

⁹ Then Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom rode on a mule. The mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth tree, and his head caught in the terebinth; so he was left hanging between heaven and earth. And the mule which *was* under him went on. ¹⁰ Now a certain man saw *it* and told Joab, and said, "I just saw Absalom hanging in a terebinth tree!" ¹¹ So Joab said to the man who told him, "You just saw *him!* And why did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have given you 10 *shekels* of silver and a belt." ¹² But the man said to

Joab, “Though I were to receive a thousand *shekels* of silver in my hand, I would not raise my hand against the king’s son. For in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, ‘Beware lest anyone *touch* the young man Absalom!’¹³ Otherwise I would have dealt falsely against my own life. For there is nothing hidden from the king, and you yourself would have set yourself against *me*.”

That long hair of Absalom’s he was so proud of became his undoing.

It caught in the branches of a tree & left him dangling in midair.

¹⁴ Then Joab said, “I cannot linger with you.” And he took 3 spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom’s heart, while he was *still* alive in the midst of the terebinth tree.¹⁵ And 10 young men who bore Joab’s armor surrounded Absalom, and struck and killed him.¹⁶ So Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing Israel. For Joab held back the people.

That signaled the end of the battle. // With Absalom dead, there was no longer any reason to keep fighting.

¹⁷ And they took Absalom and cast him into a large pit in the woods, and laid a very large heap of stones over him. Then all Israel [**Absalom’s forces**] fled, everyone to his tent.

Though it was a clear violation of David’s order, Joab killed Absalom.

Joab understood that there wasn’t going to be a reconciliation between the King & the Rebel.

Leaving Absalom alive after a rebellion that cost 20K lives would only have created even more trouble.

Absalom’s coup was nothing short of treason.

There’s only one end for traitors = Death, because they imperil the lives of thousands.

But: There’s also a dose of bitterness behind Joab’s action, just as there’d been with Ahithophel.

Joab was the one who’d brought Absalom back from exile in Syria after he killed his brother Amnon.

No sooner was he back than he began his conspiracy to stage a coup.

He played Joab for a fool and betrayed his trust.

With Absalom’s defeat, his supporters melted away.

A little remark now that makes clear Absalom was a man consumed by arrogant pride.

¹⁸ Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up a pillar for himself, which *is* in the King’s Valley. For he said, “I have no son to keep my name in remembrance.” He called the pillar after his own name. And to this day it is called Absalom’s Monument.

In vs19-32, David’s friend Ahimaaz asks permission from Joab to carry news of the victory back to David.

Joab refuses, but sends an Ethiopian mercenary instead.

When Ahimaaz pesters Joab to let him go, Joab relents and Ahimaaz takes off and overtakes the Ethiopian.

Ahimaaz tells David Joab’s forces have prevailed; the rebels have been defeated.

When David asked if Absalom survived, Ahimaaz admits he doesn’t know.

Then the Ethiopian arrives with the official report from Joab: The Rebellion is over and Absalom is dead.

³³ Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: “O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!”

David’s love for his rebel son is moving.

Knowing how closely he’s walking with God at this time, we may conclude we’re catching a glimpse of the heart of God Who grieves over all those rebels who foolishly defy Him.

Ch19

¹ And Joab was told, “Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom.”² So the victory that day was *turned* into mourning for all the people. For the people heard it said that day, “The king is grieved for his son.”

³ And the people stole back into the city that day, as people who are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.

⁴ But the king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, “O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!”

⁵ Then Joab came into the house to the king, and said, “Today you have disgraced all your servants who today have saved your life, the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives and the lives of your concubines,⁶ in that you love your enemies and hate your friends. For you have declared today that you regard

neither princes nor servants; for today I perceive that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died today, then it would have pleased you well. ⁷ Now therefore, arise, go out and speak comfort to your servants. For I swear by the Lord, if you do not go out, not one will stay with you this night. And that will be worse for you than all the evil that has befallen you from your youth until now.”

David’s grief has overwhelmed good sense // So Joab comes to him w/a stern but much-needed warning.

David better pull it together or all those who’d risked their lives for his are going to turn on him.

What Joab said was **harsh**. It had to be because David was wallowing in a deep, dark pit of despair.

He wisely heeds Joab’s rebuke, cleans himself up and heads to the city gate where he can be seen in public and hold court.

Okay: So **NOW** what? David doesn’t just head back to the capital, assuming that the throne’s still his.

It had been Absalom’s for a short time.

David’s not going to just go back and assume everything is as it was.

In vs8-14, there’s a collective sense on the part of Israel they’d given David a dirty deal by allowing Absalom to stage his rebellion.

They admit David hadn’t deserved what had happened. He’d always been a good king who’d set his life in peril to protect them.

And now, he’s not even in Jerusalem; he’s in Mahanaim – Waiting. For what? Them to call him home!

At least the common people are. It’s the elders who are dragging their heels.

And why; politics? Hoping one of them will be selected instead?

They finally petition David to return.

But David’s done with Joab who twice now has gone against his direct orders.

He killed Absalom and he’d earlier killed Saul’s commander, Abner.

So David promises Amasa, Absalom’s commander Joab’s place.

¹⁵ Then the king returned and came to the Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to escort the king across the Jordan. ¹⁶ And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, who *was* from Bahurim, hurried and came

down with the men of Judah to meet King David. ¹⁷ There were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his 15 sons and his 20 servants with him; and they went over the Jordan before the king. ¹⁸ Then a ferryboat went across to carry over the king’s household, and to do what he thought good. Now Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king when he had crossed the Jordan.

This Shimei is the same as the one who’d **cursed** David when he fled Jerusalem.

Now he’s returning, Shimei knows he’s done for & comes out to meet David with a huge display of contrition.

He’s mustered a thousand fellow Benjamites to make it clear Saul’s tribe makes no claim on the throne.

¹⁹ Then he said to the king, “Do not let my lord impute iniquity to me, or remember what wrong your servant did on the day that my lord the king left Jerusalem, that the king should take *it* to heart. ²⁰ For I, your servant, know that I have sinned. Therefore here I am, the first to come today of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.”

²¹ But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, “Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord’s anointed?” ²² And David said, “What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should be adversaries to me today? Shall any man be put to death today in Israel? For do I not know that today I *am* king over Israel?” ²³ Therefore the king said to Shimei, “You shall not die.” And the king swore to him.

In ch16, when Shimei first **cursed** David, Abishai wanted to kill him.

Now that Shimei admits his error, Abishai **still** wants to get him.

Both times, David rebuked Abishai as an unmerciful brute.

What a stain it would be to kill Shimei now // This was a day of rejoicing, not slaying.

²⁴ Now Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. And he had not cared for his feet, nor trimmed his mustache, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he returned in peace.

²⁵ So it was, when he had come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said to him, “Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?” ²⁶ And he answered, “My lord, O king, my servant deceived me. For your servant said, ‘I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go to the king,’ because your servant *is* lame.

²⁷ And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king, but my lord the king *is* like the angel of God. Therefore do *what is* good in your eyes. ²⁸ For all my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king. Yet you set your servant among those who eat at your own table. Therefore what right have I still to cry out anymore to the king?" ²⁹ So the king said to him, "Why do you speak anymore of your matters? I have said, 'You and Ziba divide the land.' " ³⁰ Then Mephibosheth said to the king, "Rather, let him take it all, inasmuch as my lord the king has come back in peace to his own house."

Again in ch16, as David fled Jrz, Ziba, Meph's servant came out with supplies for David's party.

When David asked where Meph was, Ziba lied and told him Meph hoped his grandfather Saul's throne would revert to him thru Absalom's coup.

David believed him, and gave title to the estate to him. // Now he finds out he's been hoodwinked by Ziba. It was because Meph was lame he'd not gone into exile with David.

His lack of attention to his personal needs proves how David's exile has been the cause of mourning.

Realizing he'd been tricked, David offered to restore half of Meph property to him.

But Mephibosheth doesn't care, just so long as he's counted as one of David's family again.

³¹ And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim and went across the Jordan with the king, to escort him across the Jordan.

He was one of those who brought relief to David in exile.

In vs32-39, Davud invites him to return with him to Jrz where he can properly reward him.

It's impolitic to decline a King's invitation, but Barzillai begs off, saying he's *too old* to enjoy any reward.

He sends his son, Chimham, in his place.

⁴⁰ Now the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him. And all the people of Judah escorted the king, and also half the people of Israel. ⁴¹ Just then all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, "Why have our brethren, the men of Judah, stolen you away and brought the king, his household, and all David's men with him across the Jordan?" ⁴² So all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "Because the king *is* a close relative of ours. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we ever eaten at the king's *expense*? Or has he given us any gift?" ⁴³ And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, "We have 10 shares in the king; therefore we also have more *right* to David than you. Why then do you despise us—were we not the first to advise bringing back our king?" Yet the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

David was from the tribe of Judah.

Now that he's returning to Jrz, his tribe comes out in force to escort him.

The 10 northern tribes see that & send representatives also.

It gets to be a "We love David, Yes we do. We love David: HOW 'BOUT YOU?" competition.

The men of Judah are louder.

Because they *needed* to prove their loyalty *MORE*.

It was in Hebron, their capital, where Absalom's rebellion had started.

This was their way to prove a renewed loyalty to David.

Parallels from David to Jesus

- Both were born in the village of Bethlehem.
- Neither was esteemed by their brothers.
- David & Jesus were *rejected* by the leaders of Israel.
- Both fled Jerusalem, crossed the Kidron, & wept on the Mt. of Olives overlooking Jerusalem.
- Both were rejected but rightful kings.
- Both faced betrayal by a close friend on the Mt. of Olives.
- Both were unjustly mocked & scorned.
- Both fled with a small band of loyal followers.
- Both went into hiding where those who still honored them as King went out to pay homage.

Absalom, the pretender king is a picture of the *antichrist*.

- Good-looking, popular, & powerful
- He stole the hearts & loyalty of the people.
- He claimed the throne of Jerusalem, which rightly belonged to God's anointed.
- For a short time, Israel followed him until their eyes were opened & they realized they'd been duped by an sinister rebel.
- Absalom was assisted by **Ahithophel**, a type of the **false prophet** who will assist the antichrist.
- Ahithophel counseled Absalom to lie with David's **concubines** – whom the King had left behind, saying, "You can't go with me."
- They're are a picture of the carnal, apostate church left behind after the rapture the antichrist will use to cement his power over the religious sphere, at the direction of the false prophet.
- Concubines are not **real wives**; they're pretend, wanna-be brides, much as the modern lukewarm church is today.

They will be easy pickin's in the antichrist's bid for power.

- Then Absalom led his army on an attack against the eastern hiding place of the remnant of the faithful.
 - The antichrist will send his armies to attack the remnant of faithful Jews who've rejected him & fled for protection to a hiding place in the Eastern wilderness.
- It's in that attack the antichrist will finally be defeated, just as Absalom was in his attack.
- David came back to Jrz when the eyes of Israel were opened & they realized their error in rejecting him.
 - David wanted to return, but couldn't until the leaders invited him.
 - In the same way, Jesus said, "You shall see Me no more until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD,'" an invitation by the leaders for Jesus to return.
 - David sent a message to the 2 priests he'd left in Jrz to tell the leaders to invite him back to reclaim the throne.
 - Rev says during the reign of the antichrist, the *Tribulation Absalom*, God will raise up 2 mighty witnesses who will powerfully preach the Gospel, urging the Jews to come to faith in Christ.
 - When the remnant of the Jews is in the wilderness, facing annihilation by the antichrist's forces, the leaders of Israel will finally heed them & cry out for Messiah Jesus to return.
 - He'll then come, defeat the forces of antichrist & take the throne that belongs to Him in Jrz, ushering in a grand & glorious Golden Age, just as happened under David.