

## ***“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy***

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### **Study # 41 – David’s Flight From Absalom – 2 Samuel 15:1-37**

#### **I. THE CONSPIRACY OF ABSALOM 15:1-12 (Review)**

##### **A. HIS SUBTLETY 1-6**

- Motivated by an offended and unforgiving heart, Absalom used kisses, religious words, and the things of God to steal the hearts of the men of Israel! cf. Ps. 55:21

##### **B. HIS APOSTASY 7-12**

- Absalom’s conspiracy gained strength and his following continued to increase to the point of including Ahithophel, David’s former counselor, and incidentally, Bathsheba’s grandfather!

#### **II. THE ACTIVITY OF DAVID 15:13-17**

##### **A. THE OVERTURE OF ABSALOM v13**

- A messenger arrives to inform David that Absalom’s coup attempt has apparently succeeded.
- The unnamed “messengers” of Scripture are often the bearers of bad news. cf. 2 Sam. 1:1-5; Job 1:14-19

##### **B. THE DEPARTURE OF DAVID v14-17**

###### **1. A NECESSARY PACE v14-15**

- Seeing no other option but to flee the advancing army of Absalom, David, his loyal officers, and faithful men move quickly from Jerusalem. Psalm 3 was penned at this time.
- David’s hasty departure was intended to spare the city from destruction through a heated military conflict.
- Although David’s army was impressive, the King cared more about the city, the people, and the future: i.e. The Temple!
- While living on-the-run was nothing new for David, it is ironic, especially in light of Absalom’s recent flight from David.
- cf. 1 Sam. 19:12, 18; 22:17; 2 Sam 13:34, 37-38

###### **2. A MOMENTARY PAUSE v17**

- David stops on the eastern edge of Jerusalem to review his “retreating army” and to look back over the city he had conquered and ruled as King.

#### **III. THE COMPANY OF FRIENDS v18-22**

- David’s entourage consisted of his devoted countrymen, along with various mercenary troops, and those who served as his personal bodyguard. cf. 2 Sam. 8:15-18, 20:7, 23-26; 23:22-23
- Ittai, the leader of the Gittite mercenaries, reflects the firm commitment of David’s men to their king. cf. Ruth 1:16,17
- The loyalty of the foreign mercenaries is contrasted with the disloyalty of David’s own sons and confidants. cf. Ps. 55:12-14

#### **IV. THE UNCERTAINTY OF ISRAEL v23**

- Although Absalom had succeeded in turning the people of Jerusalem and Hebron away from David, the common citizens in the surrounding areas continued to view David as their king.
- Their sorrow called forth their fear over a very uncertain future.

#### **V. THE LOYALTY OF ZADOK AND ABIATHAR v24-31**

##### **A. THE ARK OF THE LORD v24**

- The Levites, under the direction of Zadok and Abiathar, carry the Ark forth from the city, lest it be misused by Absalom.
- Zadok and Abiathar shared the priestly duties under David.
  - cf. 2 Sam. 8:17, 20:25; 1 Chr. 6:3-8; 1 Sam. 22:20; 23:6
- Abiathar was the only son of Ahimelech, who survived the slaughter of the priests at Nob and fled to David in the cave of Adullam. cf. 1 Sam. 22:20; 23:6

##### **B. THE LORD OF THE ARK v25-31**

- Resigned to the will of God, David commands that the Ark be returned to its rightful place in Jerusalem. cf. 1 Chr. 15:1
- Zadok and Abiathar, along with their sons, are ordered to return and take-up “listening posts” within the city and keep David informed of Absalom’s advancements.
- The faithfulness of the loyal Priests and their families is contrasted with the sad betrayal of Ahithophel.

#### **VI. THE FIDELITY OF HUSHAI v32-37**

- Upon the Mt. of Olives, David is greeted by Hushai, “*the King’s friend*” (1 Chr. 27:33), whom David encourages to return to Jerusalem and join Absalom’s court as an “insider.”
- David’s treasonous son, Absalom, and the king’s his loyal friend, Hushai, arrive in Jerusalem at the same time.

#### **VII. THE PROPHECY OF JESUS**

- This portion of 2 Samuel powerfully prefigures many of the closing scenes of Jesus’ earthly ministry:
  1. *Pausing to look over Jerusalem.* 2 Sam. 15:17
    - Lu. 19:41 speaks of Jesus beholding and weeping over the city.
  2. *Passing through the Kidron Valley.* 2 Sam. 15:23
    - Jn. 18:1 notes that Jesus crossed here following the Last Supper.
  3. *Ascending the Mount of Olives.* 2 Sam. 15:30
    - The Garden of Gethsemane is located at the base of Mt. Olivet.
      - cf. Matt. 26:30, 36; Mark 14:26, 32; Luke 22:39; John 18:1
  4. *Betrayed by Ahithophel.* 2 Sam. 15:31
    - Similar to that of Judas. cf. Mt. 26:47-50; Ps. 41:9
    - The end of each was suicidal despair. 2 Sam. 17:23; Mt. 27:3-5