

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

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### **Study # 45 – Preparing To Run – 2 Samuel 18:19-33**

#### **I. ABSALOM FALLS BEFORE JOAB 17:24-18:18 (Review)**

##### **A. ABSALOM’S DEMISE 17:24-18:8**

- While David remained at Mahanaim, his men under Joab’s command, engage Absalom’s troops in the Forest of Ephraim, a location favorable to David’s guerrilla fighters.
- The encounter results in a great slaughter of David’s enemies, and the rebellion of Absalom, which began in 2 Samuel 15:1, is finally squelched.

##### **B. ABSALOM’S DEATH 18:9-18**

- Joab is informed that as Absalom was attempting to escape, his head had become wedged in a forked branch of a tree. In contrast to David’s great concern for Absalom, Joab totally disregards and defies the King’s command by ruthlessly and unnecessarily slaying Absalom. cf. 18:5

#### **II. AHIMAAZ RUNS BEFORE CUSHI 18:19-23**

##### **A. THE RESISTANCE OF JOAB v19-21**

###### **1. THE REQUEST OF AHIMAAZ v19**

- Ahimaaz, the son of Zadok and a faithful messenger of David, seeks permission to carry the news of victory to the King.  
- cf. 2 Sam. 15:36; 17:17-21

###### **2. THE RESTRAINT OF JOAB v20**

- Knowing that the King was more interested in the welfare of his son Absalom than in the outcome of the battle, Joab attempts to restrain Ahimaaz from bringing news to David.
- Joab undoubtedly remembered the fate of those who had reported the deaths of Saul and Ishbosheth to David.  
- cf. 2 Sam. 1:13-16; 4:9-12

###### **3. THE RELEASE OF CUSHI v21**

- Joab dispatched Cushie (*Lit. “a Cushite”*), a foreigner, and a more expendable messenger, to bear the news of Absalom’s defeat and death to David.

##### **B. THE INSISTENCE OF AHIMAAZ v22-23**

###### **1. AHIMAAZ OVERRULES JOAB v22**

- Not to be denied, Ahimaaz continues to pester Joab until the frustrated captain finally grants him permission to run.
- You can get what you want and live to regret it! cf. Ps. 106:15

###### **2. AHIMAAZ OVERTAKES CUSHI v23**

- Ahimaaz outran Cushie by taking a longer but more level, smoother, and unrestricted route.

### **III. AHIMAAZ STANDS BEFORE DAVID 18:24-30**

#### **A. THE ANTICIPATION OF DAVID v24-27**

- David waited at Mahanaim for a report from the battlefield.
- David assumed “good news” when the lookout reported one man approaching, for if his men had been overrun, they would have been retreating from the enemy in mass.
- Ahimaaz declared “*All is well!*” (Heb. “*shalom*”) as he approached the King, and announced that the LORD had defeated the rebel army. cf. 1 Sam. 17:46, 24:18, 26:8
- By this victory, David has been proven to be the LORD’s anointed King, and that the usurper and the insurgency had been put down.

#### **B. THE HUMILIATION OF AHIMAAZ v28-30**

- David inquired concerning his son – “*Is the young man Absalom safe?*” There is a play upon the word “peace” here. The Hebrew word “*shalom*” was introduced with the greeting of Ahimaaz, and now David uses this same word; “*Is there peace to the young man Absalom?*”
- At that moment, Ahimaaz’s courage failed; and shrinking back, he gives the King a vague and unclear answer.
- Ahimaaz had not prepared his heart to give a hard word to an important person! cf. 1 Sam. 15:28; Jer. 26:1-15; Mt. 3:7, 23:33
- God honors preparation! cf. Eph. 6:15; 2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Pet. 3:15
- Instead of being honored, Ahimaaz is humiliated in the presence of the King and is ordered to stand aside!
  - cf. Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:8, 12, 16, 2:15; 1 Jn. 2:28

### **IV. CUSHI SPEAKS BEFORE DAVID 18:31-33**

#### **A. CUSHI’S MESSAGE v31-32**

- When Cushie arrived, he too announced that David’s enemies had been defeated, and when the inevitable question concerning Absalom was raised, he bluntly replies, “*May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise against you to do harm, be like that young man!*” – Dead!

#### **B. DAVID’S MOURNING v33**

- The news of his son’s death plunged David into a season of intense grief. His anguish and sorrow are accentuated in v33 by the 3-fold use of “*Absalom*” and the 5-fold use of “*my son!*”
- At this moment, being more a father than he is a King, David cannot rejoice in the news of victory but can only lament the death of his son.
- Joab will soon rebuke the King, in that David’s grief over the loss of his rebellious son outweighed his gratitude to his loyal troops who had risked their lives for the victory they had won. cf. 19:1-8