

**2 Samuel 15**  
**Absalom Usurps the Throne**

<p><b>2 Samuel 15:1-6</b> After this it happened that Absalom provided himself with chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. <sup>2</sup> Now Absalom would rise early and stand beside the way to the gate. So it was, whenever anyone who had a lawsuit came to the king for a decision, that Absalom would call to him and say, "What city <i>are</i> you from?" And he would say, "Your servant <i>is</i> from such and such a tribe of Israel." <sup>3</sup> Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your case <i>is</i> good and right; but <i>there is</i> no deputy of the king to hear you." <sup>4</sup> Moreover Absalom would say, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice." <sup>5</sup> And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him. <sup>6</sup> In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.</p>	<p>I. Absalom's <u>Plot</u> to Steal the Throne</p> <p>A. Absalom won the peoples hearts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. He provided himself symbols of kingship (men horses and chariots)</li> <li>2. He undermined the king's ability to judge             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. He would engage the people</li> <li>b. He would validate their case</li> <li>c. He would point out that the king had not time to hear their case</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. He promoted his own ability to judge             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. He promised he would give everyone justice who came to him</li> <li>b. He accepted the honor given to him by the people.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>B. Absalom to the opportunity to win the loyalty of the people to himself</p>
<p><b>2 Samuel 15:7-9</b> Now it came to pass after forty years that Absalom said to the king, "Please, let me go to Hebron and pay the vow which I made to the LORD. <sup>8</sup> "For your servant took a vow while I dwelt at Geshur in Syria, saying, 'If the LORD indeed brings me back to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.' " <sup>9</sup> And the king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron.</p>	<p>II. Absalom <u>Takes Leave</u> of the King</p> <p>A. 40 years – some manuscripts “four” - which is probably more likely.</p> <p>B. Absalom asks to go to Hebron</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To pay a vow</li> <li>2. To the Lord</li> <li>3. Because he returned</li> <li>4. Then he will serve the Lord</li> </ol> <p>C. David gives him permission</p>
<p><b>2 Samuel 15:10-13</b> Then Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Absalom reigns in Hebron!' " <sup>11</sup> And with Absalom went two hundred men invited from Jerusalem, and they went along innocently and did not know anything. <sup>12</sup> Then Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city -- from Giloh -- while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy grew strong, for the people with Absalom continually increased in number. <sup>13</sup> Now a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."</p>	<p>III. Absalom Wins <u>Support</u></p> <p>A. Absalom sends spies</p> <p>Spies – from a root “to go a bout on foot” can carry the idea of “slander”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To all the tribes of Israel</li> <li>2. To announce Absalom's reign</li> </ol> <p>B. Absalom invites men from Jerusalem</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 200 men</li> <li>2. They did not know why the came</li> </ol> <p>C. Absalom sent for David's counselor Ahithopel – the Gilonite – Grandfather of Bathsheba</p> <p>D. Absalom offered sacrifices</p> <p>E. Absalom's support kept growing stronger</p> <p>F. David hears news of Absalom</p>
<p><b>2 Samuel 15:14-18</b> So David said to all his servants who <i>were</i> with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee; or we shall not escape from Absalom. Make haste to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly and bring disaster upon us, and strike</p>	<p>IV. David <u>Flees</u> Jerusalem</p> <p>A. David takes his servants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. David flees quickly</li> <li>2. His servants follow faithfully</li> </ol> <p>B. David leaves 10 concubines behind</p>

the city with the edge of the sword." <sup>15</sup> And the king's servants said to the king, "We *are* your servants, *ready to do* whatever my lord the king commands." <sup>16</sup> Then the king went out with all his household after him. But the king left ten women, concubines, to keep the house. <sup>17</sup> And the king went out with all the people after him, and stopped at the outskirts. <sup>18</sup> Then all his servants passed before him; and all the Cherethites, all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had followed him from Gath, passed before the king.

- C. David stops at the outskirts
  1. His servants keep going before him
  2. 600 men in all

**2 Samuel 15:19-23** Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why are you also going with us? Return and remain with the king. For you *are* a foreigner and also an exile from your own place. <sup>20</sup> "In fact, you came *only* yesterday. Should I make you wander up and down with us today, since I go I know not where? Return, and take your brethren back. Mercy and truth *be* with you." <sup>21</sup> And Ittai answered the king and said, "As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely in whatever place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also your servant will be." <sup>22</sup> So David said to Ittai, "Go, and cross over." Then Ittai the Gittite and all his men and all the little ones who *were* with him crossed over. <sup>23</sup> And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people crossed over. The king himself also crossed over the Brook Kidron, and all the people crossed over toward the way of the wilderness.

- V. Ittai Shows His loyalty to David
  - A. David commands Ittai to remain behind
    1. Remain with Absalom
    2. Because he is a foreigner
    3. Because he is exiled from his home
    4. Because David does not want to cause him more hardship
  - B. Ittai desires to remain with David
    1. Wherever David is
    2. Whether in life or death
    3. He will stay with David
  - C. David allows Ittai and his family to stay with him
  - D. The people mourn for David
  - E. David follow last after the people

**2 Samuel 15:24-29** There was Zadok also, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar went up until all the people had finished crossing over from the city. <sup>25</sup> Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back and show me *both* it and His dwelling place. <sup>26</sup> "But if He says thus: 'I have no delight in you,' here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him." <sup>27</sup> The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Are you *not* a seer? Return to the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar. <sup>28</sup> "See, I will wait in the plains of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me." <sup>29</sup> Therefore Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem. And they remained there.

- VI. Zadok Remains in Jerusalem
  - A. Zadok and the Levites were following David
    1. They had brought the ark
  - B. David send them back
    1. If God will show David favor, he will return
    2. If not, He will do what He deems best
  - C. David sends Zadok back so that he can bring news to David
  - D. Zadok and the Levites return

**2 Samuel 15:30 - 37** So 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. And all the people who *were* with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they went up. <sup>31</sup> Then *someone* told David, saying, "Ahithophel *is* among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O LORD, I pray, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!" <sup>32</sup> Now it happened when David had come to the top of *the mountain*, where he worshiped God -- there was Hushai the Archite coming to meet him with his robe torn and dust on his head. <sup>33</sup> David said to him, "If you go on with me, then you will become a burden to me. <sup>34</sup> "But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; as I *was* your father's servant previously, so I *will* now also *be* your servant,' then you may defeat the counsel of Ahithophel for me. <sup>35</sup> "And *do* you not *have* Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? Therefore it will be *that* whatever you hear from the king's house, you shall tell to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. <sup>36</sup> "Indeed *they have* there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz, Zadok's *son*, and Jonathan, Abiathar's *son*; and by them you shall send me everything you hear." <sup>37</sup> So Hushai, David's friend, went into the city. And Absalom came into Jerusalem.

## VII. David Places a Spy in Jerusalem

- A. David leaves
  1. Via the Mount of Olives
  2. Mourning
- B. David hears of Ahithophel's betrayal
- C. David prays for the Lord to work against Ahithophel's counsel
- D. David worship's God
- E. Hushai comes to David
  1. He was mourning also
  2. David sends him back – he will must be a burden to David
  3. David gives him a mission
    - a. Pretend to serve Absalom
    - b. Defeat the counsel of Ahithophel
    - c. Report all that happens to the priests
    - d. Then the priests will send messengers to David
- F. Hushai returns and does what David tells him to do.

### Takeaways:

- David stopped to worship God as he was fleeing from Absalom. Our worship of God does not depend upon our circumstances, but on God Himself, who does not change. Therefore, not matter if we are doing well or if we are troubled, God still deserves our worship.
- David accepts God's judgment of him for His sin and places his fate in God's hands. David understands if God is to show him favor, He is able to bring him back to Jerusalem to be the king once again, and if God's punishment leads to David never returning to be king, then God is still righteous in His actions. God is always right and good in His judgments. We can trust Him and we should always acknowledge God's righteous character.
- David prays for God to frustrate Ahithophel's council – then God answers David's prayer by providing Hushai to be the man to do just that. We should not be surprised when God answers our prayers. He hears His saints and wants to act on their behalf. He cares for you.