

Lesson 20
David Flees From Absalom
(2 Samuel 15:1 – 18:33)

Questions

1. How did Absalom steal the hearts of the men of Israel (15:1-6)?

2. What reason did Absalom give David for wanting to go to Hebron and why did he actually go there (15:7-12)?

3. How did David respond to Absalom's growing popularity and conspiracy (15:13-18)?

4. What choice did Ittai the Gittite make concerning David (15:19-23)?

5. What did David tell Zadok to do with the ark of the covenant (15:24-29)?

6. What did David tell his friend Hushai the Archite to do (15:30-37)?

7. What did Ziba bring to David, his household, and his travelling companions (16:1-4)?

8. What did Shimei do to David and those travelling with him (16:5-8)?

9. How did David respond to Shimei's behavior and Abishai's request to kill him (16:9-14)?

10. What did Hushai the Archite commit to Absalom (16:15-19)?

11. What counsel did Ahithophel give to Absalom (16:20-23)?
12. What further counsel did Ahithophel give Absalom (17:1-3)?
13. What counsel did Hushai give Absalom and why was his counsel accepted (17:5-14)?
14. How did Hushai get word to David about Ahithophel and Absalom's plan to kill David (17:15-20)?
15. What did Ahithophel do when he saw that his counsel was not followed (17:21-23)?
16. Who did Absalom put in charge to fight against David's men (17:24-26)?
17. What was brought to David at Mahanaim (17:27-29)?
18. What charge did David give his captains concerning Absalom when the two sides met in battle (18:1-5)?
19. How many of Absalom's men died in battle and how did Absalom himself die (18:6-15)?
20. What was done with Absalom's body and what was he known for (18:16-18)?
21. Who brought word to David about Absalom's death and how did David respond to the news (18:19-33)?

Digging Deeper

1. Locate the following on a map: Hebron (15:7), Giloh (15:12), Beth-merhak (15:17), the brook Kidron (15:23), the mount of Olives (15:30), Bahurim (16:5), En-rogel (17:17), Mahanaim (17:24), and the forest of Ephraim (18:6).
2. How much time passed according to 15:7 (compare versions)? What did David write in Psalm 3 that shows how he felt when he fled from Absalom (15:13-17)?
3. Where in 2 Samuel was Absalom at Geshur and why (15:8)?
4. What had David done for Ziba and Mephibosheth back in 2 Samuel 9? Was Ziba now lying to David about Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 16:3 (compare 19:26-27)?
5. What other OT story is similar to what happened in 2 Samuel 17:18-20?
6. How are Amasa and Joab related (17:25; 1 Chron. 2:16-17)? How did Shobi act differently from his brother, Hanun (17:27; see 2 Sam. 10:1-5)? Who did Machir take care of earlier in 2 Samuel (17:27; see 2 Sam. 9:4)?
7. What does it mean that “the forest devoured more people that day than the sword devoured” (18:8)? What does the name “Absalom” mean (18:28, 29, 32)?

Applications for Today

1. Don't let anyone steal your heart and cause you to align yourself with what is wrong (15:6, 13; Rom. 16:18; 2 Pet. 2:3).
2. You cannot make everyone happy in life. Sometimes you will have supporters and sometimes you will have adversaries (15:19 – 16:14; 17:27-29; 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 11:26; Gal. 2:4; 2 Thess. 3:1-2).

3. True friends stick together even in difficult times (15:19-23; 18:2; Prov. 17:17).
4. Pray to the Lord that he will work providentially to bring about what is best for his people (15:31; 17:14, 23; Mt. 24:20-22).
5. Be careful about making rash decisions without getting all the facts (16:4; Prov. 18:13).
6. Don't render evil for evil, but good for evil (16:9-14; Rom. 12:21; 1 Thess. 5:15).
7. The best way to be remembered is by leaving behind a good reputation and character, not by building a physical monument to yourself (18:18; Prov. 22:1; 27:2).
8. Speak the truth even when it is hard to do so (18:31-32; Zech. 8:16; Eph. 4:15).