

2 SAMUEL 15:31 – Absalom’s Revolt – David Prays Against Ahithophel’s Counsel!

8/18/18 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

O WORSHIP THE KING – Robert Grant; Joslin Grove Choral

*1 O worship the King all-glorious above, O gratefully sing God’s power and God’s love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
2 O tell of God’s might, oh sing of God’s grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
God’s chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, and bright is God’s path on the wings of the storm.
3 Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
4 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!*

Chapters 15 & 16– Absalom Rebels Against David!

In chapter 11 David, after committing his terrible sin, found that trouble came to him thick and fast. The same way that he had sinned, members of his family sinned, and David is not through with the effect of it yet. God really took David to the woodshed. In this chapter Absalom leads a rebellion against David. In a very subtle way Absalom begins to steal the hearts of the children of Israel. He is an attractive young fellow—probably like David in many ways. He is the heir apparent to the throne; that is, David would like for him to succeed him. We find now that Absalom is back in Jerusalem, beginning to move secretly to plot David's overthrow. This is a dastardly deed, but the chickens are coming home to roost for David. Actually, a formidable revolution will break out which will cause David to flee from Jerusalem.

David Flees Jerusalem -

- 2Sa 15:13 Now a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."*
- 2Sa 15:14 So David said to all his servants who were 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 the city with the edge of the sword."*
- 2Sa 15:15 And the king's servants said to the king, "We are your servants, ready to do whatever my lord the king commands."*
- 2Sa 15:16 Then the king went out with all his household after him. But the king left ten women, concubines, to keep the house.*
- 2Sa 15:17 And the king went out with all the people after him, and stopped at the outskirts.*
- 2Sa 15:18 Then all his servants passed before him; and all the Cherethites, all the Pelethites, (David’s bodyguard) and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had followed him from Gath, passed before the king.*
- 2Sa 15:19 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.*
- 2Sa 15:20 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."*
- 2Sa 15:21 But 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."*
- This is an outstanding example of personal loyalty from Ittai, the Gittite, “*whether in death or life, even there also your servant will be*”! I will stay with the king!
- 2Sa 15:22 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.*
- 2Sa 15:23 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.*
- 2Sa 15:24 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.*
- 2Sa 15:25 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.*
- Notice David’s closeness to the LORD. David didn’t need the ark of the covenant to be close to God. Saying, “*if I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back*”!
 - David is in a place of great peace, even in eye of a terrible storm!
- 2Sa 15:26 But if He says thus: 'I have no delight in you,' here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him."*
- 2Sa 15:27 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.*
- David had no idea had big the revolt is or will become. He needs intelligence regarding the situation, so he

sends the two sons of Zadok and Abiathar's two sons back into Jerusalem to be able to send reports!

2Sa 15:28 See, I will wait in the plains of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me."

2Sa 15:29 Therefore Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem. And they remained there.

2Sa 15:30 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.

*2Sa 15:31 Then someone told David, saying, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "**LORD, I pray, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!**"*

- David prays against Ahithophel's counsel, not against his person. Ahithophel was a wise man, and well versed in state affairs. God alone could confound his devices. **Bathsheba's grandfather** - **2Sa 11:3**... *"Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"* **2Sa 23:34**... *Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,*
- Ahithophel had been a highly esteemed, wise, counselor of David. When he defected to Absalom's side, David prayed that his counsel to Absalom would be foolish, and God answered this prayer in the very next verse!
- Absalom was no political leader, but with Ahithophel's counsel, Absalom presented a real threat. If Ahithophel's counsel can be counteracted, Absalom is as good as routed, and the head of the conspiracy cut off. This David endeavors to do.

*2Sa 15:32 Now it happened when David had come to the top of the mountain, **where he worshiped God***

- Though in danger of his life, David stops on the top of Mount Olivet for prayer! Prayer never hinders any man's journey! Would we have done likewise?

*—there was **Hushai the Archite coming to meet him** with his robe torn and dust on his head.*

- Hushai was David's friend and would risk being a spy for him.

2Sa 15:33 David said to him, "If you go on with me, then you will become a burden to me.

2Sa 15:34 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.

- David seems to get a very quick answer to his prayer to turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness. Hushai the Archite shows up. David sends him back to be an adviser to Absalom, giving the chance to counter any recommendations from Ahithophel. In chapter 17, Hushai will give advice, counter to Ahithophel's counsel, which is said to be better by Absalom's men. However, it was better advice for David, not Absalom!

2Sa 15:35 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.

2Sa 15:36 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."

2Sa 15:37 So Hushai, David's friend, went into the city. And Absalom came into Jerusalem.

SUMMARY:

- Sin has consequences! About 10 years have passed since David's sin with Bathsheba. Indeed, the sword has not departed from David's house! Amnon has raped Tamar and has been killed by Absalom.
- Now Absalom has committed treason, attempting to kill his father, David, becoming king of Israel.
- Upon hearing of Absalom's revolt, David chooses, partially from guilt, to vacate Jerusalem, rather than have the city become a site of warfare.
- David, his bodyguard, the Cherethites, all the Pelethites, and his 600 men leave Jerusalem.
- Ittai, a general from Gath, joins David, exhibiting a life or death personal loyalty to David.
- Zadok and Abiathar and the Levites bring out the ark of the covenant of God.
- David says to take it back into the city. *"If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back!"*
- Upon learning that David's trusted, wise, advisor, Ahithophel has joined Absalom, David prays for the LORD to turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!
- Absalom presented a real threat, but if Ahithophel's counsel can be counteracted, Absalom is as good as routed, and the head of the conspiracy cut off.
- David, though in danger of his life, stops on the top of Mount Olivet and worshiped God! Prayer never hinders any man's journey! Would we have done likewise?
- God quickly answers the prayer, by sending the counselor Hushai, David's friend to intervene.
- God blesses Hushai's advice, overturning Ahithophel's counsel.

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Court.

Please Note: You may see/download past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: www.ptwente.com