

David Flees Jerusalem (2 Sam. 15:13-16:23)

The King And His Household Flee The City (2 Sam. 15:13-18)

13 Now a messenger came to David, saying, “The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom.” 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.” 15 And the king’s servants said to the king, “We are your servants, ready to do whatever my lord the king commands.” 16 Then the king went out with all his household after him. But the king left ten women, concubines, to keep the house. 17 And the king went out with all the people after him, and stopped at the outskirts. 18 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.

- See David’s nobility of heart, that he would rather leave Jerusalem.
- Now we meet his loyal servants and friends. David fleeing, together with the people who remain with him, is a picture of Christ.
- In a note of foreshadowing, David left ten concubines behind.
- The Cherethites and Pelethites are thought to have been Philistine bodyguards.
- There were also followers from the main Philistine city of Gath. This is a picture of Gentile Christians who have become devoted to Christ.

An Honorable Philistine (2 Sam. 15:19-23)

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. 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." 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." 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. 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.

- Perhaps Ittai was no longer welcome among his own people because he had expressed admiration for David. He seems to have taken the faith of Israel.
- Ittai is also a picture of the Christian, who becomes an admirer of Christ and becomes an exile from the Philistines.
- The Kidron Brook formed a city boundary on the eastern side. Crossing over it was significant, and corresponds to a detail in Jesus' life. Jesus and His remaining, faithful disciples crossed over the Kidron Brook also.
- In the Kidron Valley, or Valley of Jehoshaphat, God will judge the nations: *"For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land."* (Joel 3:1-2)

- Here again, David was a type of Jesus in his rejection.
- Gentiles like Ittai the Gittite are surely making the best choice when we commit to stay with our king!

David Sends The Ark Back To Jerusalem (2 Sam. 15:24-29)

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. 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. 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.” 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. 28 See, I will wait in the plains of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me.” 29 Therefore Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem. And they remained there.

- In times past, the Ark had gone with the people. But David’s concern had always been to find the Ark its resting place in the heart of the nation.
- David had a wonderful faith that since God had given him the city, God could give it to him again.

Weeping, Covered, And Barefoot (2 Sam. 15:30-37)

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. 31 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!” 32 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. 33 David said to him, “If you go on with me, then you will become a burden to me. 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. 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. 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.” 37 So Hushai, David’s friend, went into the city. And Absalom came into Jerusalem.

- Here is another picture of David’s humility.
- We also learn that he had a spot on the Mount of Olives where he would worship God, up at the top of the mountain. Perhaps he used to take advantage of the view there and pray for the city and the nation.
- Although his adviser, Ahithophel, has joined the rebellion, David has another friend and counselor, named Hushai. Hushai will act as a spy and will seek to undermine Absalom from within.
- We then read the ominous phrase that Absalom has come into Jerusalem.

Meeting Ziba Once Again (2 Sam. 16:1-4)

1 When David was a little past the top of the mountain, there was Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth, who met him with a couple of saddled donkeys, and on them two hundred loaves of bread, one hundred clusters of raisins, one hundred summer fruits, and a skin of wine. 2 And the king said to Ziba, "What do you mean to do with these?" So Ziba said, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the wine for those who are faint in the wilderness to drink." 3 Then the king said, "And where is your master's son?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is staying in Jerusalem, for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will restore the kingdom of my father to me.'" 4 So the king said to Ziba, "Here, all that belongs to Mephibosheth is yours." And Ziba said, "I humbly bow before you, that I may find favor in your sight, my lord, O king!"

- Ziba comes with gifts and an apparent show of loyalty. Was he sincere? David seems to have had his doubts.
- Notice that once David give the property of Mephibosheth to Ziba, Ziba bows before him. He hadn't previously bowed to David... and this is revealing.

Cursed By Shimei (2 Sam. 16:5-14)

5 Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came. 6 And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David. And all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. 7 Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: "Come out! Come out!

You bloodthirsty man, you rogue! 8 The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!” 9 Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!” 10 But the king said, “What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the LORD has said to him, ‘Curse David.’ Who then shall say, ‘Why have you done so?’ ” 11 And David said to Abishai and all his servants, “See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now may this Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the LORD has ordered him. 12 It may be that the LORD will look on my affliction, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing this day.” 13 And as David and his men went along the road, Shimei went along the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went, threw stones at him and kicked up dust. 14 Now the king and all the people who were with him became weary; so they refreshed themselves there.



- Bahurim was a place of weeping. This is where Michal’s husband had wept.
- Shimei was a member of the Tribe of Benjamin, but he also seems to have been a relative of Saul of some sort.
- By calling David a bloodthirsty man, he reminded David of Bathsheba and Uriah.
- Shimei also says that Yahweh is judging him for the blood of the House of Saul. This wasn’t true, but many might have thought it was.
- He also calls David a man of Belial, no doubt a tremendous insult.
- Abishai seeks to kill Shimei but David restrains him. David knows that vengeance and violence will not change anything on this day.

Wicked Advice (2 Sam. 16:15-23)

15 Meanwhile Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem; and Ahithophel was with him. 16 And so it was, when Hushai the Archite, David’s friend, came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, “Long live the king! Long live the king!” 17 So Absalom said to Hushai, “Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?”

18 And Hushai said to Absalom, “No, but whom the LORD and this people and all the men of Israel choose, his I will be, and with him I will remain. 19 Furthermore, whom should I serve? Should I not serve in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father’s presence, so will I be in your presence.”

20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, “Give advice as to what we should do.” 21 And Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Go in to your father’s concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; and all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strong.” 22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went in to his father’s concubines in the sight of all

Israel. 23 Now the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. So was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

- Hushai was able to deceive Absalom by appealing to his vanity. So, David will now have his termite inside the city, undermining Absalom.
- Absalom asks for advice on how to solidify his new kingdom. Ahithophel knew that if Absalom were to sleep with David's concubines, this would represent a clean and final break.
- Absalom did this in broad daylight, on top of the house. This fulfilled God's word to David through Nathan.
- Although people felt getting advice from Ahithophel was like getting advice from God, Bible says there is "no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD." (Proverbs 21:30)

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