



Life of

# DAVID

## *The Making of a King*

**Bring Back the King**  
2 Samuel 18 & 19:1-15  
Lesson 20

### **Background Information**

What will you do when false kings rise up against God's rightful rule in your heart? Though the people had willingly followed Absalom's rule over them, David gained strength in the Lord and made his plan of attack.

There can be no neutral ground when it comes to defending God's kingdom in your heart. To prepare for battle David planned his strategy and positioned his army for attack. The stage was set for battle only one king would come back.

### **Treasures of the Heart**

*The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.*

*Rule in the midst of Your enemies! Psalms 110:3*



## **What does it say?**

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

*Read through 2 Samuel 16 & 17 for context*

### **2 Samuel 18:1-18**

**1** And David numbered the people who were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them. **2** Then David sent out one third of the people under the hand of Joab, one third under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the people, "I also will surely go out with you myself."

**3** But the people answered, "You shall not go out! For if we flee away, they will not care about us; nor if half of us die, will they care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us now. For you are now more help to us in the city."

**4** Then the king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood beside the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and by thousands. **5** Now the king had commanded Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains orders concerning Absalom.

**6** So the people went out into the field of battle against Israel. And the battle was in the woods of Ephraim. **7** The people of Israel were overthrown there before the servants of David, and a great slaughter of twenty thousand took place there that day. **8** For the battle there was scattered over the face of the whole countryside, and the woods devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

**9** Then Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom rode on a mule. The mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth tree, and his head caught in the terebinth; so he was left hanging

between heaven and earth. And the mule which was under him went on. 10 Now a certain man saw it and told Joab, and said, "I just saw Absalom hanging in a terebinth tree!"

11 So Joab said to the man who told him, "You just saw him! And why did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have given you ten shekels of silver and a belt."

12 But the man said to Joab, "Though I were to receive a thousand shekels of silver in my hand, I would not raise my hand against the king's son. For in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Beware lest anyone touch the young man Absalom!' 13 Otherwise I would have dealt falsely against my own life. For there is nothing hidden from the king, and you yourself would have set yourself against me."

14 Then Joab said, "I cannot linger with you." And he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the terebinth tree. 15 And ten young men who bore Joab's armor surrounded Absalom, and struck and killed him.

16 So Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing Israel. For Joab held back the people. 17 And they took Absalom and cast him into a large pit in the woods, and laid a very large heap of stones over him. Then all Israel fled, everyone to his tent.

18 Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up a pillar for himself, which is in the King's Valley. For he said, "I have no son to keep my name in remembrance." He called the pillar after his own name. And to this day it is called Absalom's Monument.

## Digging Deeper



Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

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## **2 Samuel 18:19-33**

**19** Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "Let me run now and take the news to the king, how the Lord has avenged him of his enemies."

**20** And Joab said to him, "You shall not take the news this day, for you shall take the news another day. But today you shall take no news, because the king's son is dead." **21** Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." So the Cushite bowed himself to Joab and ran.

**22** And Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, "But whatever happens, please let me also run after the Cushite." So Joab said, "Why will you run, my son, since you have no news ready?"

**23** "But whatever happens," he said, "let me run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain, and outran the Cushite.

**24** Now David was sitting between the two gates. And the watchman went up to the roof over the gate, to the wall, lifted his eyes and looked, and there was a man, running alone. **25** Then the watchman cried out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is news in his mouth." And he came rapidly and drew near.

**26** Then the watchman saw another man running, and the watchman called to the gatekeeper and said, "There is another man, running alone!" And the king said, "He also brings news."

**27** So the watchman said, "I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king said, "He is a good man, and comes with good news."

28 So Ahimaaz called out and said to the king, "All is well!" Then he bowed down with his face to the earth before the king, and said, "Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king!"

29 The king said, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent the king's servant and me your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I did not know what it was about."

30 And the king said, "Turn aside and stand here." So he turned aside and stood still.

31 Just then the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "There is good news, my lord the king! For the Lord has avenged you this day of all those who rose against you."

32 And the king said to the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" So the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise against you to do harm, be like that young man!"

**33** Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: "O my son Absalom — my son, my son Absalom — if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!"



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## **2 Samuel 19:1-8**

1 And Joab was told, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." 2 So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people. For the people heard it said that day, "The king is grieved for his son." 3 And the people stole back into the city that day, as people who are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle. 4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

5 Then Joab came into the house to the king, and said, "Today you have disgraced all your servants who today have saved your life, the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives and the lives of your concubines, 6 in that you love your enemies and hate your friends. For you have declared today that you regard neither princes nor servants; for today I perceive that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died today, then it would have pleased you well. 7 Now therefore, arise, go out and speak comfort to your servants. For I swear by the Lord, if you do not go out, not one will stay with you this night. And that will be worse for you than all the evil that has befallen you from your youth until now." 8 Then the king arose and sat in the gate. And they told all the people, saying, "There is the king, sitting in the gate." So all the people came before the king. For everyone of Israel had fled to his tent.




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## 2 Samuel 19:9-15

9 Now all the people were in a dispute throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king saved us from the hand of our enemies, he delivered us from the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled from the land because of Absalom. 10 But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, has died in battle. Now therefore, why do you say nothing about bringing back the king?"

11 So King David sent to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, saying, "Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, 'Why are you the last to bring the king back to his house, since the words of all Israel have come to the king, to his very house? 12 You are my brethren, you are my bone and my flesh. Why then are you the last to bring back the king?' 13 And say to Amasa, 'Are you not my bone and my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if you are not commander of the army before me continually in place of Joab.'" 14 So he swayed the hearts of all the men of Judah, just as the heart of one man, so that they sent this word to the king: "Return, you and all your servants!"

15 Then the king returned and came to the Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to escort the king across the Jordan.





## **W**hat does it mean?

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?”** Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

2 Samuel 18:1-18 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Samuel 18:19-33 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Samuel 19:1-8 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Samuel 19:9-15 \_\_\_\_\_

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## **H**ow can I apply it?

**Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?”** How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 words or less)

2 Samuel 18:1-18 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Samuel 18:19-33 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Samuel 19:1-8 \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Samuel 19:9-15 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Challenge:** Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

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## **Understanding the Heart . . .**

See if you can discover the **heart attitude** of those in the story. What emotions are they dealing with? What is God teaching them? How do they respond? How should they respond?

**T**he Heart of David:

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**T**he Heart of the people:

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**T**he Heart of God:

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**W**hat words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

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## **Getting The Point**

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

2 Samuel 18:1-18 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Samuel 18:19-33 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Samuel 19:1-8 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Samuel 19:9-15 \_\_\_\_\_

**Title** State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

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**Flex Your Muscles** Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

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## **Radiating His Truth . . .**

The life you live is the monument you build, and ultimately the truth will come out. - Warren Wiersbe



