

2 Samuel 18:1-19:8

1 Then David mustered the men who were with him and set over them commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds. 2 And David sent out the army, one third under the command of Joab, one third under the command of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the command of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the men, "I myself will also go out with you." 3 But the men said, "You shall not go out. For if we flee, they will not care about us. If half of us die, they will not care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us. Therefore it is better that you send us help from the city." 4 The king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood at the side of the gate, while all the army marched out by hundreds and by thousands. 5 And the king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders about Absalom. 6 So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. 7 And the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the loss there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. 8 The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword. 9 And Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. 10 And a certain man saw it and told Joab, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak." 11 Joab said to the man who told him, "What, you saw him! Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have been glad to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt." 12 But the man said to Joab, "Even if I felt in my hand the weight of a thousand pieces of silver, I would not reach out my hand against the king's son, for in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, 'For my sake protect the young man Absalom.' 13 On the other hand, if I had dealt treacherously against his life (and there is nothing hidden from the king), then you yourself would have stood aloof." 14 Joab said, "I will not waste time like this with you." And he took three javelins in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak. 15 And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him. 16 Then Joab blew the trumpet, and the troops came back from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained them. 17 And they took Absalom and threw him into a great pit in the forest and raised over him a very great heap of stones. And all Israel fled every one to his own home. 18 Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up for himself the pillar that 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 it is called Absalom's monument to this day. 19 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "Let me run and carry news to the king that the LORD has delivered him from the hand of his enemies." 20 And Joab said to him, "You are not to carry news today. You may carry news another day, but today you shall carry no news, because the king's son is dead." 21 Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." The Cushite bowed before Joab, and ran. 22 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, "Come what may, let me also run after the Cushite." And Joab said, "Why will you run, my son, seeing that you will have no reward for the news?" 23 "Come what may," he said, "I will run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by the 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 of the gate by the wall, and when he lifted up his eyes and looked, he saw a man running alone. 25 The watchman called out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is news in his mouth." And he drew nearer and nearer. 26 The watchman saw another man running. And the watchman called to the gate and said, "See, another man running alone!" The king said, "He also brings news." 27 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 Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, "All is well." And he bowed before the king with his face to the earth and said, "Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king." 29 And the king said, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent the king's servant, your servant, I saw a great commotion, but I do not know what it was." 30 And the king said, "Turn aside and stand here." So he turned aside and stood still. 31 And behold, the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "Good news for my lord the king! For the LORD has delivered you this day from the hand of all who rose up against you." 32 The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" And the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man." 33 And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!" 19:1 It was told Joab, "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 that day, "The king is grieving for his son." 3 And the people stole into the city that day as people steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle. 4 The king covered his face, and the king cried 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, “You have today covered with shame the faces of all your servants, who have this day saved your life and the lives of your sons and your daughters and the lives of your wives and your concubines, 6 because you love those who hate you and hate those who love you. For you have made it clear today that commanders and servants are nothing to you, for today I know that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased. 7 Now therefore arise, go out and speak kindly to your servants, for I swear by the LORD, if you do not go, not a man will stay with you this night, and this will be worse for you than all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now.” 8 Then the king arose and took his seat in the gate. And the people were all told, “Behold, the king is sitting in the gate.” And all the people came before the king.

Preparation 18.1-5

Description:

Battle 18.6-8

Absalom’s End 18.9-18

Communication 18.19-32

Reaction 18.33-19.8

1. Rebel 2. Patriots 3. Leader

1. Rebel

Now in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. And when he cut the hair of his head (for at the end of every year he used to cut it; when it was heavy on him, he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred shekels by the king's weight. 2 Samuel 14.25,26

Could have been KARDASHIAN > FAMOUS for being FAMOUS!

POSTER BOY of Israel > Self PROMOTER in LOVE with HIMSELF

Teenage GIRLS in Israel would have POSTERS of Absalom on Bedroom Walls

Absalom would say, “Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice.” And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. 2 Samuel 15.4-6

CLAIMS he can UNDERSTAND and CARE for People of ISRAEL

Much BETTER than UNCARING, Not Listening FATHER DAVID

DOMINANT Presence of Absalom since Chapter 13 / CONTROL of JOAB

Absalom – David’s SON // JOAB > COMMANDER of David’s ARMY

DAVID is KING but he is NOT in CONTROL

v. 18 Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up for himself the pillar that 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 it is called Absalom's monument to this day.

BUILT MONUMENT to INSURE LEGACY for the FUTURE

And you shall not set up a pillar, which the LORD your God hates.

Deuteronomy 16.22

Ch 18 > CIVIL WAR – SON v. FATHER – FAMILY / NATION TORN

Never told to FEEL SORRY for Absalom

REVENGE for his Sister > MURDERS Crown Prince

SEX on the ROOF > VILE Rebellion against God’s King

Act of Rebellion > Leaving God’s Anointed for LIAR, COUNTERFEIT

ANTI-Christ > ZEALOUS Opponent of all that TRUE KING Stands For

Will LITERALLY DO ANYTHING to RESIST the Lord’s Anointed King

Scripture PRESENTS him as an ENEMY of God

Leads FORCES of Rebellious ISRAEL INTO BATTLE > Bigger ARMY

Little FOCUS ON Battle – just 3 Verses

Vs. 6-8 So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. And the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the loss there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword.

Absalom get SEPARTED from his ARMY > HIDDEN IN FORREST

CREATION fights for TRUE KING > CREATOR'S PURPOSE Displayed

v. 9 And Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

HEAD / HAIR caught in BRANCHES > HANGING from TREE!

FAMOUS Hair TIED him up in KNOTS > between HEAVEN & EARTH

SAYS Nothing, DOES Nothing, NO WIMPER > SILENT SLAUGHTER

“if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree...for a hanged man is cursed by God.

Deuteronomy 21.22,23

BURIAL > Joshua 7 – ACHAN Stoned to DEATH – LIAR, THIEF,

Joshua said, “Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today.” And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his burning anger. Joshua 7.25,26

So Joshua burned Ai and made it forever a heap of ruins, as it is to this day.

Joshua 8.29

ISRAELITES DEFEATED FIVE AMORITE KINGS...

Then Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out...Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, “Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings.” Then they came near and put their feet on their necks. And Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.” And afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees...at the time of the going down of the sun, Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves, and they set large stones against the mouth of the cave, which remain to this very day.

Joshua 10.24-26

PILE of STONES > UNDER the CURSE of God

ONE Moment ALL of Israel Follows Abs. > NEXT Under Pile of Rocks Forever

LIFE is SHORT > from THRONE to the TERRORS of HELL in FLASH

ALL Kingdoms RAISED UP Against KINGDOM of God will End this Way

Austrian Corporal > REICH for 1000 yrs > 20 years DEAD in BERLIN Bunker

Georgian Butcher > DICTATOR of USSR – Kills 40 Million of OWN PEOPLE
Life Ends in Shame, Defeat, and Misery

When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” Revelation 6.12-17

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

1 Corinthians 15.25

2. Patriots

One of MOST BELOVED Military Generals ROBERT E. LEE

Led ARMIES of CONFEDERACY during American Civil War

May 6, 1864 – Battle of WILDERNESS – Northern Troops thru Southern lines

DEFEAT was POSSIBLE – SOUTHERN Reinforcements / TEXAS Arrived

LEE Ecstatic > Mounted Horse to LEAD Troops in BATTLE

Southern Troops REFUSED to Move – to a man chanted “Lee to the Rear!”

David DIVIDED Troops – 3 Groups – Minimize POWER of JOAB??

TOLD by LOYAL Troops “David to the REAR!”

v. 4 The king said to them, “Whatever seems best to you I will do.” So the king stood at the side of the gate, while all the army marched out by hundreds and by thousands.

David’s COMMAND to ARMY > ALL HEARD “protect young man”

v. 5 And the king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.” And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders about Absalom.

Ridiculous ORDER of King DAVID – Don’t HURT Leader of Opposition

ARMY Cannot FIGHT with FULL STRENGTH

CERTAIN Man sees Absalom HANGING from Tree > TELLS JOAB

More VERSES about WHAT TO DO with Absalom than BATTLE

HE is the BATTLE > He CAUSED it > HIS DEATH will END IT

Vs. 10-15 And a certain man saw it and told Joab, “Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak.” Joab said to the man who told him, “What, you saw him! Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have been glad to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt.” But the man said to Joab, “Even if I felt in my hand the weight of a thousand pieces of silver, I would not reach out my hand against the king's son, for in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, ‘For my sake protect the young man Absalom.’ On the other hand, if I had dealt treacherously against his life (and there is nothing hidden from the king), then you yourself would have stood aloof.” Joab said, “I will not waste time like this with you.” And he took three javelins in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak. And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.

JOAB in Rage > Soldier NOT Intimidated > Middle of POLITICAL Mess

Killed Absalom > KING FURIOUS > JOAB would NOT Back him up

LOSE any Way he Acted > JOAB Agreed > QUICK DECISION!

Takes Matters into own Hand > DEFEND Kingdom even by Disobeying King

Remembered words of DAVID about DEATH of URIAHA in Warfare

Absalom's SURVIVAL WILL Destroy Kingdom > KING is WRONG!

v. 16 Then Joab blew the trumpet, and the troops came back from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained them.

WAR is COMPLICATED > Some need to make TOUGH DECISIONS

PRAY for Police, Military > Must ACT Quickly for PUBLIC WELFARE

JOAB knows what must BE DONE and ACTS > BUSH not OBAMA

How are we going to TELL DAVID???

CUSHITE > MOST NOBLE Person in this STORY – MOST DESPISED

ETHIOPIAN JEWS in ISRAEL Today > Ark?? > Persecuted > SINCERE

News of Saul, Jonathan, Ishboeth Death > DAVID KILLED the Messengers

Vs. 19-23 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, “Let me run and carry news to the king that the LORD has delivered him from the hand of his enemies.” And Joab said to him, “You are not to carry news today. You may carry news another day, but today you shall carry no news, because the king's son is dead.” Then Joab said to the Cushite, “Go, tell the king what you have seen.” The Cushite bowed before Joab, and ran. Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, “Come what may, let me also run after the Cushite.” And Joab said, “Why will you run, my son, seeing that you will have no reward for the news?” “Come what may,” he said, “I will run.” So he said to him, “Run.” Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and outran the Cushite.

Ahimaaz > RUNS Faster? Shorter Route? DOXOLOGY.... Bless God!

FLATTERY and FEARS to TELL WHOLE Story

Cushite v. 31 > BOLD AND BRAVE –

Least IMPORTANT man in Story is MOST NOBLE, GREATEST Character

BALANCED Truth > v. 31 And behold, the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, “Good news for my lord the king! For the LORD has delivered you this day from the hand of all who rose up against you.”

GREATEST Faith in Sovereign God of ISRAEL – Expressed by Cushite

DIVINE JUDGMENT – HANGING from TREE / Under PILE of STONES

3. Leader

David’s FOCUS Shifted from Kingdom of God to PERSONAL GRIEF

News of URIAH’S Death > “that is what happens in war, collateral damage”

ABSALOM > Stated Enemy, Killed Brother, Raped Wives, Stole Kingdom

REJECTED REAL KING > Stole Kingdom, SOVEREIGN

DAVID – Maybe EARLY ALZHEIMERS? – Fog of SENILITY

v. 24 – 27 Now David was sitting between the two gates, and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he lifted up his eyes and looked, he saw a man running alone. The watchman called out and told the king. And the king said, “If he is alone, there is news in his mouth.” And he drew nearer and nearer. The watchman saw another man running. And the watchman called to the gate and said, “See, another man running alone!” The king said, “He also brings news.” 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.”

David SWEET PSALMIST of ISRAEL > OVERWHELMED with DESPAIR

v. 32-33 The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” And the Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man.” And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

HEARTBREAK > Father whose SON is LOST – in Death and ETERNITY

FATHER who FAILED to be FAITHFUL to point Son to Faithful GOD

END of Life > MAN never LAMENTS Never spent More Time at Office

More Time Developing BUSINESS, GOLF GAME, FISHING SKILLS

ALL NOTHING > CRUSHED to think you FAILED your OWN FAMILY

Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’

2 Samuel 12.10

Bathsheba’s SON – OLDEST Son MURDERED – ABSALOM Now Dead

Son is GIFT from HEAVEN > Cast down into HELL

19:1-4 It was told Joab, “Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom.” So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people, for the people heard that day, “The king is grieving for his son.” And the people stole into the city that day as people steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle. The king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, “O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

GRIEF and LOSS – No Excuse for PITY PARTY

MANY Things in STORY seem like NOT SUPPOSED to HAPPEN

- David – DO NOT HURT MY SON
- Unnamed Soldier – HONORS Request > JOAB SLICES him UP
- YOUNG HERO Absalom – DIES in SHAME, ALONE, hanging on Tree
- AHIMAZ OUTFRONS the Cushite Messenger
- David WEEPS instead of REJOICING in God’s DELIVERANCE
- RETURNING Troops come home in SHAME for WINNING Battle!
- COMMANDER scolds HIS KING
- KING silently submits to SHAMEFUL Words of his Subordinate

v. 5-7 Then Joab came into the house to the king and said, “You have today covered with shame the faces of all your servants, who have this day saved your life and the lives of your sons and your daughters and the lives of your wives and your concubines, because you love those who hate you and hate those who love you. For you have made it clear today that commanders and servants are nothing to you, for today I know that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased. Now therefore arise, go out and speak kindly to your servants, for I swear by the LORD, if you do not go, not a man will stay with you this night, and this will be worse for you than all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now.”

David SHOULD have Put on THEOLOGY CAP > Lord’s Anointed

WRITER of Scripture > Absalom not INNOCENT > ANTI-CHRIST

DAVID should REJOICE that Kingdom of God is being RESTORED

Judgment on ENEMIES is NECESSARY to RESTORE Kingdom of God

MEN LOVE David – Need not be ASHAMED > Need to be HONORED

DAVID does HONOR Them Goes out to GATE

v. 8 Then the king arose and took his seat in the gate. And the people were all told, “Behold, the king is sitting in the gate.” And all the people came before the king.

PRAYER – THY Will be DONE – KINGDOM Come on Earth like HEAVEN

Our King will JUDGE ALL his ENEMIES > Victor

Jesus is going to DESTROY Enemies > NOT our Job, He will do it

WE have weapons of love, prayer, truth, kindness, forgiveness

ABSALOM – judged for HIS OWN SIN

HUNG from TREE / BURIED in TOMB > COVERED with STONE

REVERSE of Absalom > TRUE SON, SAVIOR - SUBSTITUTE

HUNG from TREE / BURIED in TOMB > COVERED with STONE

BOTH Judged and CURSED > ONE is INNOCENT, SIN-BEARER for US

JESUS – Came out ALIVE – SHOWED Himself on THRONE like David to Men

“He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet”

Are you trusting in King Jesus?