

Lesson 8: David's Wars (II Samuel 19-24)

Review

As part of his punishment for the sin with Bathsheba, David would suffer adversity from within his own house. The adversity begins with Amnon (his oldest son) violating Tamar, and Absalom (his third born) murdering Amnon. This event initiates a conflict between Absalom and David that culminates in Absalom's attempt to usurp David's throne. As a result, Absalom steals the hearts of the people, and David is forced to leave Jerusalem with his family. As David leaves Jerusalem, he is deceived by Ziba and cursed by Shimei. David leaves behind the priests (Zadok and Abiathar) and a trusted advisor (Hushai) to keep informed of Absalom's plans and to subvert his counsel. Through Hushai, Absalom is convinced to fight David by putting himself in the battle, in keeping with the Lord's intent to bring disaster on Absalom (II Samuel 17:14). Before the battle, David ordered his men to "deal gently with Absalom for my sake". During the battle as Absalom rode under a terebinth tree, his hair became caught in the tree, and his mule left him hanging in the tree. When Joab learns that Absalom is hanging in the tree, he takes 3 spears and thrusts Absalom through the heart. When David learns of Absalom's death, he mourns greatly and wishes he had died in place of Absalom. Throughout these tragedies, David trusts God and submits his will to Him in all things, accepting whatever the outcome may be.

Questions

1. What rebuke does Joab give David in his mourning for Absalom, and what is his reasoning (II Samuel 19:5-7)? How does David respond to Joab's rebuke (II Samuel 19:8)? Why do you think David responds the way he does?
2. What strategy does David employ to unify Israel and Judah for his return to Jerusalem (II Samuel 19:11-15?)
3. What plea does Shimei make of David (II Samuel 19:18-20)? How does David show mercy and exercise justice toward Shimei (II Samuel 19:21-23; I Kings 2:8-9, 36-46)?

4. How does Mephibosheth show his allegiance to David (II Samuel 19:24-30), and how does David change his order in II Samuel 16:4? Why do you think David does not punish Ziba for his deception?
5. What charge does David give to Amasa (II Samuel 20:4-5)? How does Amasa die (II Samuel 20:6-13)?
6. How does an unnamed woman save the city of Abel Beth Maacah, and what lessons might there be for us today (II Samuel 20:16-22)?
7. Who were the Gibeonites and how was their blood avenged (II Samuel 21:1-14)? How did Rizpah demonstrate love for her sons in this event, and what kindness did David show to the house of Saul as a result?
8. What are some of the main themes in David's psalm of deliverance that are exemplified in his life (II Samuel 22:2-51)?
9. Why does David choose the punishment that he does for counting the people, and what does this say about the character of David (II Samuel 24:11-14; I Chronicles 21:9-13)? How does God show mercy in His punishment (II Samuel 24:15-17; I Chronicles 21:14-17)?
10. How does David's sacrifice at the threshing floor of Araunah demonstrate his devotion and faithfulness to God (II Samuel 24:18-25; I Chronicles 21:18-30)?