

Absalom's Apostasy

2 Samuel 15:1-37

- Apostasy: abandonment of religious or political belief.
- Almost immediately after Absalom was restored in D's favor, he begins his campaign to seize the throne.
- D never seems to be suspicious of Absalom.

1. A Kingly Campaign – v. 1-12

- 1: a group this size should've alerted D to Absalom's intentions. Seeking to usurp power? Hire a bodyguard!
- Unusual for Israelites to ride in chariots drawn by horses – looked down on by prophets. Samuel warned about Saul: 1S 9:11
- Absalom probably learned this from pagan grandfather, king of Geshur.
- 4: he should have been judged for murder, yet he wanted to judge others! He is very arrogant in dealing with others, 14:28-32.
- 5: as a way of feigning equality, he would interrupt them, bow down, kiss their hand
- Rise early: king heard people's suits early
- 6: pretended he was interested in justice for everyone – an insult to gov't > can't do job
- 7: 4 years: more accurate translation than 40; 4 years after he arrived he launched *coup d'état*.
- Hebron: why? Absalom born there, Hebron still holding grudge against D for moving seat of power to Jerusalem.
- 10: many preparations had gone into plans
- 11: 200 men: influential but no co-conspirators; clever: if they object, could become hostages.
- 12: Ahithophel a very wise man; if Absalom had followed his advice, he might have overthrown D. Giloth: 5mi. NW of Hebron.
- Ahithophel must have thought this *coup* would work. If worked, Solomon killed?

2. A New Ally – v. 13-29

- Coffman tied Rev. 13:3 here.
- 14: some have criticized D Leaving Jerusalem, but this move probably saved his life! Being in the open safer than in a walled city.
- 18: 600 skilled soldiers capable of defeating an army 10x their size! Passed before: crossing of brook of Kidron, E of Jerusalem.

- 19-23: D standing at brook seeing who would go with him – none. Their hearts are with Absalom. [*Today, Jesus only takes volunteers.*]
- Ittai's men not the same as v. 18
- 24-29: D appears to have grown in faith: he is relying on God more.
- Realizes God might punish him for his sins – yet he submits to God!
- 28: 2 sons would provide D info on Absalom.

3. Ahithophel – v. 30-37

- 30: Tatum: “One of the saddest passages in the Bible.”
- 31: D responded to sad news with a prayer; God responded immediately: Hushai would return to inform of Absalom's strategy & also to frustrate Ahithophel.
- 32: DeHoff: “D was in danger of his life, but he stopped on Mount Olivet for prayer.”
- Ps. 41 shows D's feelings of anguish over Ahithophel's treachery.
- Ps. 3 & 4 were D's Morning & Evening songs as he fled from Absalom.
- Ps. 27 a contrast between Jehovah's abiding goodness & the inconsistency of man.
- Ps. 61 & 62 probably written at Mahanaim when D's men had been assuaged.

Lessons:

1. Ahithophel was a very wise man – unfortunately there were some people who took his words as if they were God's words. We must daily search the Scriptures to know God's Word.
2. D took his safety to heart when he left Jerusalem to fight for his life. We must always do what is needed to protect our safety: physically & spiritually.
3. D was fleeing for his life, yet he stopped to worship. NEVER get too busy to stop & worship God. If the king of God's people can do it, we have no excuse!

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