

## Absalom's Ascension of Authority

### 2 Samuel 16:1-23

- This rebellion looks like a great success – D is gone, and the rebellion looks to turn into a revolution!
- D appears to be relying on the Lord even more in this chapter.
- For this study, “3 –ings”: Deceiving, Cursing, Ravaging

#### **1. Deceiving – v. 1-4**

- Often in troubling times, people use calamity to get their own gain: Ziba's timely gift deceived D.
- D acted rashly and will come to regret this.
- 1: 2 donkeys probably for Ziba & Mephibosheth; crippled master conveniently at home; skin: goat skin.
- 3: probably false accusation against master

#### **2. Cursing – v. 5-19**

- 5: Bahurim: tiny highway village far E of Mt. Olivet; Phalti turned back here leaving Michal w/ D (3:15-16); sons of priests will hide in a well here (17:18).
- Cook identified this man as “Cush the Benjaminite” from Ps. 7 title.
- 7: man of blood: applied to D by God, 1C 22:8
- 8: House of Saul: Benjaminites blamed D for these deaths: Saul, 1S 31:1-6; Abner, 2S 3:22-24; Ishbosheth, 2S4:5-12; & particularly 7 descendants of Saul, 2S 21:1-14.
- D will follow Jordan river; Shimei follows, cursing D
- 9: interesting distinct recognition: separating 3 nephews, different temperament: violence
- D will leave vengeance to the Lord, Dt. 32:35
- 11: D innocent in crimes Shimei accused him of, yet he is reminded of past transgressions and views this as a chastisement
- 14: 1<sup>st</sup> leg of flight is completed; D waits here until word returns to him
- 15-19: right here Absalom loses chance to be king; conceited Absalom taken in flattery
- 17: lying not approved of by God: sinful deeds by sinful men are frequently used by God's providence to accomplish His Eternal Purpose.
- 18: masterpiece of a deception: deliberate flaw is suggesting Absalom was chosen.

### 3. Ravaging – v. 20-23

- Man who was guilty of murdering his half-brother (and pardoned) is now guilty of ten accounts of incest – a capital offense! Lv. 20:11; 1 Cor. 5:11 – a sin not even named among the Gentiles!
- 20: your: plural, Hushai potentially also asked
- 21: this stopped all attempts at reconciliation!
- Ahithophel, for his own selfish purposes, encouraged Absalom to commit a crime that was irreconcilable!
- 22: greatest deed of insult to D; “wedding tent” used by all Jews still today, Ps. 19:5, Joel 2:16 mention tent.
- Pagan mindset (grandfather king) was to take predecessor’s harem when overthrown.
- Violation – rape – prophesied by Nathan, 2S 12:11!
- 23: Ahithophel was not speaking God’s Word, but it was regarded as such.
- Worldly: wise advice; Biblically: devilish!
- Matthew Henry: “Ahithophel’s cursed counsel was an oracle of the Devil, not of God!”

#### Lessons:

1. D was deceived when he was in a period of unrest. Satan always tries to catch God’s people off guard, yet we can look to Jesus & resist every temptation!
2. The cursing’s of Shimei were seen as a just chastisement for past sins; today, we are not always punished immediately for sins, **BUT** every sin deserves punishment. Remember: Heb. 12:5-7.
3. When we ask people for advice, we must always be careful to 100% take it without running it through Scripture. Ahithophel was looking out for only himself!

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