

1. Absalom's terrible rebellion:

- a. The loyalty of the men who remained with King David
 - i. Abiathar and Zadok - the priests
 - ii. Hushai - David's closest confidante - commendable loyalty, questionable methods
 - iii. Ahitophel - He betrayed David - an "O.T. Judas" - most likely the one mentioned in Psalm 41

2. Why did Absalom listen to the bad advice of Hushai and not the good advice of his advisors?

- a. The Spirit of God - "If you are standing for God, you do not need to be afraid of even the wisest of His enemies, because God can easily turn them from wisdom to confusion. He has a long history of doing just that."
- b. Hushai's advice appealed to Absalom's vanity as the recognized leader of a national army. He had an enormous ego.
- c. Absalom did not have "a single eye" - he was pursuing 2 goals, the throne and for all to know how great he was.

4. The Doctrine of the Providence of God is seen here:

- a. Absalom believes that Hushai is on his side.
- b. Absalom believes that Hushai's advice is better than Ahitophel's advice.
- c. God strikes fear into the larger army of the rebel king.
- d. God directs the footsteps of Absalom's donkey.

5. The Mosaic Law calls for the stoning of a child who rebels against his parent. When Absalom dies, they heap the pit into which his body is thrown with a huge pile of stones.

6. The lesson to children - rebellious children become rebellious adults and reap the fruit of what they sow.

7. The lesson to parents - a child who has never been restrained will become impossible to restrain.

8. Absalom's half-brother Solomon would someday pen these words: "Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

1. Psalm 35, 36, and 37 give insights into what happened during this dark time in the exiled king's life, into the heart of David and into the measure of his faith in God.

2. Psalm 35:

a. David is most hurt because his enemies hate him "without cause".

b. David asked God to:

Contend with those who fought against him - answered

Encourage his heart - answered

Put to shame those who sought his life - answered

Make their paths dark and slippery - answered

Entangle them in their own nets and make them fall into the pit they dug for him

Put to shame and confusion those who gloated over his distress

Give the opportunity for those who delight in his vindication to shout for gladness

c. God answers even our most desperate prayers.

d. This Psalm also fits the experience of Jesus.

3. Psalm 36: The description of the evil man fits the description of Absalom:

a. No fear of God

b. Flatters himself too much to detect his own sin or hate his sin

c. Tells lies

d. Cease being wise

e. Spends all his time plotting evil

4. Psalm 37: Perspective

It is an acrostic Psalm, meant to be memorized and used in our lives - a great formula:

a. Do not fret because of evil men.

b. Trust in the Lord.

c. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.

d. Commit your way to the Lord and your righteousness will shine forth like the dawn.

e. Be still before the Lord.

f. Refrain from anger; turn away from wrath.

5. "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." Jesus quoted this in the Beatitudes.

6. "I was young and now I am old and I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread."

1. In 2 Samuel 19 and 20 we encounter David's extraordinary grief over Absalom's death, the steps taken to restore his throne, yet another rebellion, and Joab's ruthlessness.

2. Joab:

Hard-boiled, vengeful, practical military man

Loyal to David, sometimes obedient, sometimes not

Loyalty to David benefits him

Joab talked bluntly to David to bring him out of his despair over Absalom's death.

3. David is roused to action by Joab's harsh words:

He communicates his appreciation to his troops

He communicates his willingness to return to Jerusalem

He is willing to allow forgive the people who defected to Absalom.

4. "Bridge repairs" need to be done:

He spares the life of Shimei, who cursed him and threw stones at him on the way out Jerusalem

He meets with Mephibosheth over the dispute between him and his servant Ziba.

5. Barzillai the Gileadite - David wants to reward him for his help.

6. Sheba's rebellion:

He wanted to separate Israel from Judah.

Joab and the woman from Able solve that problem. He also dealt with Amasa, Absalom's general.

7. David's grief over Absalom:

David loved Absalom in spite of everything.

Absalom had caused great damage to the nation and the family.

David knew he had a part in making Absalom who he was.

Absalom was in a place of judgment, not in heaven as his infant son who died was.

8. The Old Testament concept of life and death:

They knew that death was not the end of it all.

"Sheol" was the place where the O.T. dead went, and the ideas about it were not clear.

1. The last 4 chapters are probably not in chronological order; it is topically arranged.
2. The strange story about the famine and the revenge of the Gibeonites on the household of Saul probably occurred earlier in David's reign.

May explain the vehemence of Shimei's hatred
May explain the hatred of Saul's relatives toward David
May explain why Saul's tribe (Benjamin) was ripe to join Absalom's rebellion

3. The Gibeonites' story: A very difficult one

They were the ones who had tricked Israel into a peace treaty in the days of Joshua.
Even though the treaty was made by deceit, Joshua and Israel kept it.
Saul broke the treaty when he was king.
God sent a famine to Israel because of Saul's breaking of the treaty.
God identified the problem, but He did NOT prescribe the solution - that was man's solution, not God's and it was unjustifiable.
God sends the rain after the burial and end of the revenge.

4. The textual problem in the story of the Philistines descended from Rapha:

Who killed Goliath? David did, but the error here has been copied and never corrected

5. Chapter 22 - great song of Thanksgiving that dates to the time in David's life when he was primarily engaged as a military king dealing with the Philistines or perhaps even earlier.

It mentions Saul.
It is strong on purity and must have been written before Bathsheba.
Psalm 18 - Praise for David's deliverance from Saul.

6. Psalm 18: "I will call upon the Lord for He is worthy to be praised - so shall I be saved from my enemies. The Lord liveth and blessed be the rock and let the God of my salvation be exalted."

7. "...I have been blameless...the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness..." Does this bother you?

Perhaps he is looking back on one moment in time
Perhaps he, under the power of the Holy Spirit, is speaking not about himself, but about the Messiah. Paul believed it was a Messianic passage.

1. David - the greatest king Israel ever had...great victories...colossal failures...genuine repentance.

2. David knew:

How to worship God
How to repent of sin
How to trust in God
How to be a leader
How to pray

3. "The Last Words of David"

"When one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth."

He expresses his confidence in God to keep His promises to Him - great men and women have a fixation on the promises of God.

Are our hearts fixated on the promises of God and looking forward to where they will be fulfilled?

4. David is described as the "sweet singer of Israel" - Israel's singer of songs", his words and music superintended by God.

5. David's mighty men:

- a. The "3" - Josheb-Basshebeth, Eleazar son of Dodai, Shammah the son of Agee - the "medal of honor winners"
- b. The "30", probably led by Abishai
- c. Uriah the Hittite - the husband of Bathsheba - makes David's sin all the more heinous
- d. also listed in 1 Chronicles 11

6. 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21 - David's sin in numbering the people of Israel

"The simple but crucial truth is that the sovereignty of God extends even over Satan and that evil being is thoroughly and completely subservient to and under the control of God..."

7. What the sin that angered God was, is not completely clear, but if it was the "counting" it is because troop strength was not what gave them victory - it is the Lord who gives the victory and he alone.

8. An important principle of God's Word is articulated here by David: "I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."