

2 Samuel 19

King James Version (KJV)

19 And it was told Joab, Behold, the king weepeth and mourneth for Absalom. (Absalom not only tried to kill the king, he also cause many who followed him to die in the war. David has been making bad decisions for a while. Nathan foretold this in chapter 12 when he said the sword won't pass from David's house)

²And the victory that day was turned into mourning unto all the people: for the people heard say that day how the king was grieved for his son. (Turning a victory into mourning can really demoralize the people who risked their lives to fight for David. It also dishonors those that died in the battle)

³And the people gat them by stealth that day into the city, as people being ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.

⁴But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!

⁵And Joab came into the house to the king, and said, Thou hast shamed this day the faces of all thy servants, which this day have saved thy life, and the lives of thy sons and of thy daughters, and the lives of thy wives, and the lives of thy concubines; (Joab is right)

⁶In that thou lovest thine enemies, and hatest thy friends. For thou hast declared this day, that thou regardest neither princes nor servants: for this day I perceive, that if Absalom had lived, and all we had died this day, then it had pleased thee well. (David would have been happier if he had lost the war)

(This is a good example of why men should not be kings. God was their king until they forced Samuel to anoint a man king – Saul. The country went downhill after that as one bad king followed another. When Jesus returns at the end of this Age, He will be our King forever; and we will finally be done with the rule by men and women)

⁷Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants: for I swear by the LORD, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry one with thee this night: and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now. (He'd better choose which side he is on, or he won't have anyone side with him ever again)

⁸Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the people came before the king: for Israel had fled every man to his tent.

(Absalom's supporters had fled back home)

⁹And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom.

¹⁰And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back? (Many were apprehensive about bringing King David back. Many had been supporting Absalom)

¹¹And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak unto the elders of Judah, saying, Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house? seeing the speech of all Israel is come to the king, even to his house. (Judah should be the first to call the king back; not the last)

¹²Ye are my brethren, ye are my bones and my flesh: wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king? (David was of Judah)

¹³And say ye to Amasa, Art thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab. (David is replacing Joab with Amasa – the man who was Absalom's general, against David. Amasa was a traitor for having sided with Absalom against the king)

(David must have been punishing Joab for calling him out after he turned victory into mourning. He must have hated Joab, because he intended to do the same when he made a deal with Abner in earlier chapters)

¹⁴And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even as the heart of one man; so that they sent this word unto the king, Return thou, and all thy servants.

¹⁵So the king returned, and came to Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to conduct the king over Jordan.

¹⁶And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, which was of Bahurim, hasted and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David.

¹⁷ And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over Jordan before the king. (Ziba lied to David about Meshibosheth trying to take the throne from David; Shimei cursed David as he was leaving Jerusalem. Both of these stooges are now worried about what David may do to them)

¹⁸ And there went over a ferry boat to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was come over Jordan;

¹⁹ And said unto the king, Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart.

²⁰ For thy servant doth know that I have sinned: therefore, behold, I am come the first this day of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king.

²¹ But Abishai the son of Zeruah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD's anointed?

²² And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? for do not I know that I am this day king over Israel? (David really seems to dislike Abishai and Joab)

²³ Therefore the king said unto Shimei, Thou shalt not die. And the king swore unto him. (At his death, David had Solomon set Shimei up to be killed) 1Kings-2:8-9

²⁴ And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came again in peace. (Grandson of Saul – there is no word for grandson in old Hebrew. Mephibosheth is displaying a sign of great grief)

²⁵ And it came to pass, when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth? (Because of Ziba's lie, David suspects Mephibosheth of possibly trying to claim the throne)

²⁶ And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant is lame. (Ziba lied to him and also to David)

²⁷ And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king is as an angel of God: do therefore what is good in thine eyes. (He's putting himself at the king's mercy)

²⁸ For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king?

²⁹ And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I have said, Thou and Ziba divide the land. (Chapter 9:7 David gave all to Mephibosheth; Chapter 16:4 David gave all to Ziba; now they should divide the land) (David continues to make bad decisions. Ziba lied his way into half of the land)

³⁰ And Mephibosheth said unto the king, Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.

³¹ And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and went over Jordan with the king, to conduct him over Jordan.

³² Now Barzillai was a very aged man, even fourscore years old: and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he was a very great man. (lay = resided - bad translation) (He was both rich and compassionate)

³³ And the king said unto Barzillai, Come thou over with me, and I will feed thee with me in Jerusalem.

³⁴ And Barzillai said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem?

³⁵ I am this day fourscore years old: and can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?

³⁶ Thy servant will go a little way over Jordan with the king: and why should the king recompense it me with such a reward?

³⁷ Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, and be buried by the grave of my father and of my mother. But behold thy servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good unto thee.

(Josephus records that Chimham was a son of Barzillai – historical, but not Biblical)

1Kings-2:7 (David tells Solomon to always show kindness to the sons of Barzillai) (Smiths Bible Dictionary states that Chimham may have been a son of Barzillai)

³⁸ And the king answered, Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do to him that which shall seem good unto thee: and whatsoever thou shalt require of me, that will I do for thee. (David agreed)

³⁹ And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place. (David must have known that this would be the last time that he would see Barzillai, because of his age)

⁴⁰ Then the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him: and all the people of Judah conducted the king, and also half the people of Israel. (Crossed back over the Jordan to the lands west) (Possible better translation – Judah wholeheartedly supported David while Israel only half-heartedly supported him. Many of them had supported Absalom)

⁴¹ And, behold, all the men of Israel came to the king, and said unto the king, Why have our brethren the men of Judah stolen thee away, and have brought the king, and his household, and all David's men with him, over Jordan? Chapter-19:9-10 (These same guys were bickering among themselves as to whether they would accept David back. Now they are asking why they were left out of the king's return)

⁴² And all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, Because the king is near of kin to us: wherefore then be ye angry for this matter? have we eaten at all of the king's cost? or hath he given us any gift? 1Samuel-22:7 (Saul chastised Benjamin, saying that Judah would benefit from David becoming the king. Yet it was Benjamin who benefited from Saul being the king)

⁴³ And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more right in David than ye: why then did ye despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king? And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel. (Trouble brewing – about 50 years later, the 10 northern tribes would split from Judah and Benjamin after Solomon's death)