

2 Samuel 15

King James Version (KJV)

(Absalom's rebellion)

15 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. (This was his way of making himself important before the people. Acting like he's the heir apparent to the throne)

²And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel. (The gate is where judgments were passed to settle arguments and to judge criminals. Absalom is setting himself up to be the judge)

³And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee. (Although you are in the right, the king is too busy to help you – Absalom is gradually turning people against David)

⁴Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! (If I were king, I would judge in your favor)

(How can he rule in favor of everybody? One will lose and the other will win. This makes no sense. Absalom is acting like a type for antichrist, when he will arrive. A chicken in every pot, a car in every garage; the Democrats do this today with promises of "free stuff")

⁵And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. (Absalom is acting like a true politician)

⁶And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

⁷And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron. (Forty years – after Samuel anointed David)
1Samuel-16

(Hebron was Absalom's birth place & also the place where David was first anointed as king over Judah. It was also the capital of Judah,

before David moved it to Jerusalem. There were probably some people in Hebron that were unhappy that the capital was now in Jerusalem. Absalom saw this as a possible opportunity to get their support)

⁸For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.

⁹And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.

¹⁰But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron. (This was probably to test the reaction of the people. He wanted to make sure that he had support before he moved against David. This is treason on Absalom's part)

¹¹And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing. (Unaware of Absalom's conspiracy; they were invited to share in Absalom's sacrificial meal to God)

¹²And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom. (Ahithophel= brother of foolishness – he was Bathsheeba's grandfather, and a trusted counselor to King David) (Absalom was handsome, smart and friendly. He was a natural born politician)

¹³And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom. Psalms-41 & Psalms-55 (written by David, about his thoughts and feelings about Absalom's rebellion)

¹⁴And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword. (Running away was not David's style. He may have been trying to buy time; to avoid a civil war with Absalom and his forces. He also needs time to figure out who is with him and who is with Absalom. Also, God is against civil war)

¹⁵And the king's servants said unto the king, Behold, thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint.

¹⁶ And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, which were concubines, to keep the house.
Chapter-12:11 (God told David, through the prophet Nathan, that the sword would never leave his house because of his adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah. As David stole Uriah's wife in secret, someone will take your wives publicly, before all the people)

¹⁷ And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off. (far off = beth-hamaroh <Hebrew> = the house of the distance)

(They haven't even crossed the Brook Kidron yet. They are still very close to Jerusalem, possibly on their way to Jericho. This is possibly the last house as they departed Jerusalem, towards Jericho)

¹⁸ And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king. (The 600 of Gath were not Philistines. They were Israelites that stayed with David while he was in Gath) (Cherethites and Pelethites also served as the king's bodyguards)

¹⁹ Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou art a stranger, and also an exile. (Ittai was a Philistine, of Gath. Go home; this is not your problem)

²⁰ Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth be with thee. (He was a new immigrant to Israel. No need to get involved in a civil war)

²¹ And Ittai answered the king, and said, As the LORD liveth, and as my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be. (He was loyal to David)

²² And David said to Ittai, Go and pass over. And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones that were with him. (Passed over – cross over the Brook Kidron, east of Jerusalem – they were going with David and his family)

²³ And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the

people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness. (Those who were still loyal to David wept. Absalom and his followers were celebrating)

²⁴ And lo Zadok also, and all the Levites were with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city.

²⁵ And the king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and shew me both it, and his habitation: (David knew that a lot of this had to do with his sins, over Bathsheeba and Uriah. "If it's God's will, I will be coming back to Jerusalem")

²⁶ But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, here am I, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him. (David will abide by God's will, one way or the other. Either way, the Ark should remain in Jerusalem)

²⁷ The king said also unto Zadok the priest, Art not thou a seer? return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

²⁸ See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me. (Zadok, a prophet, will hear God's decision, and his sons can be messengers between him and David. This was a good way for David to keep tabs on what Absalom was doing)

²⁹ Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God again to Jerusalem: and they tarried there.

³⁰ And David went up by the ascent of Mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up. (Mount Olivet – the Mount of Olives) (They were in mourning – they were leaving their homes, David is facing a civil war. David remembered God's judgment on him in Chapter-12)

³¹ And one told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness. (David's prayer will come to pass. Ahithophel had been an adviser to David. Now he betrayed him to serve Absalom)

³² And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the mount, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head: (Hushai & Ahithophel had both been trusted advisers to David)

³³ Unto whom David said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me: (Because he was very old, he couldn't keep up)

³⁴ But if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy servant, O king; as I have been thy father's servant hitherto, so will I now also be thy servant: then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel. (Hushai will pretend to also have changed sides. He could counsel Absalom against Ahithophel, and do David's bidding)

³⁵ And hast thou not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, that what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. (They will then relay the information to David through their sons)

³⁶ Behold, they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's son, and Jonathan Abiathar's son; and by them ye shall send unto me every thing that ye can hear. (David was telling Hushai who he could trust)

³⁷ So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem. (David's spy network was set up)