

Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

Absalom's Conspiracy

- Absalom engaged in a four-year campaign to win over the people of Israel [2 Sam 15:1-6].
 - He set things up by seating himself at the gate with a chariot and 50 men [vv. 1-2a].
 - When someone came to the gate bringing a suit for judgment, Absalom would insinuate that David was too busy to hear their case [vv. 2b-3].
 - Absalom claimed that he should be a judge [v. 4].
 - Absalom feigned compassion for the people by kissing those who came before him [v. 5].
 - His scheme was successful as he gradually won the hearts of the people [v. 6].
 - This was all part of his plot for revenge because David had shunned him.
- Sensing that he had gained overwhelming support of the people, Absalom executed the next phase of his plan [2 Sam 15:7-12].
 - Absalom asked David for permission to go to Hebron, allegedly to pay a vow [vv. 7-8].
 - NOTE: David had begun his reign in Hebron [2 Sam 2:1-4] and Absalom was born there [2 Sam 3:2-3].
 - David assumed Absalom was telling the truth and granted him permission to go [v. 9].
 - Once in Hebron, Absalom hatched his plan to usurp David's power [v. 10].
 - Absalom had invited some men from Jerusalem to follow him to Hebron and they did so without knowing his intentions [v. 11].
 - Absalom eventually won them over along with Ahithophel, David's chief counselor [v. 12].
- When David learned of the coup, he decided to evacuate Jerusalem [2 Sam 15:13-23].
 - David was concerned that Absalom might attack him in Jerusalem and destroy the city [v. 14].
 - David's servants were willing to follow his orders, whatever they might be [v. 15].
 - David and his household fled, leaving behind ten concubines to keep the house [v. 16].
 - The people left Jerusalem with David, including 600 Gittites who had followed him from Gath in Philistia [vv. 17-18; 1 Sam 23:13; 27:2; 30:9].
 - David tried to persuade Ittai to stay behind since he had nothing to fear from Absalom, but Ittai chose to follow David [vv. 19-22].
- Zadok, Abiathar and the Levites had brought the Ark of the Covenant, but David sent them back to Jerusalem [2 Sam 15:24-29].
 - David knew that God would bring him back to Jerusalem as king if it was His will [vv. 25-26].
 - David wanted Zadok and Abiathar to send their sons to him with intel updates [vv. 27-28].
 - They honored David's wishes and returned [v. 29].

- David fled to the Mount of Olives and formed a counter-conspiracy [2 Sam 15:30-37].
 - The journey up the Mount of Olives was a march of despair [v. 30].
 - David learned of Ahithophel's betrayal and asked the Lord to thwart his counsel to Absalom [v. 31].
 - David asked Hushai the Archite to return to Jerusalem and serve under Absalom [vv. 32-34].
 - He encouraged Hushai to work with Zadok, Abiathar and their sons to relay him intel about what Absalom was doing [vv. 35-36].
 - Hushai honored David's wishes and returned to Jerusalem as Absalom and his men were taking firm control over the city [v. 37].