

# Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

## Absalom Enters Jerusalem

- As David was fleeing Jerusalem, he met Mephibosheth's servant Ziba [2 Sam 16:1-4].
  - David had previously met Ziba [2 Sam 9:1-4, 9-11].
  - Ziba brought supplies for David and the people with him [vv. 1-2].
  - Ziba accused Mephibosheth of treason [v. 3].
  - David believed Ziba and gave him all that had been given to Mephibosheth [v. 4].



- As David continued his journey, he met Shimei in Bahurim [2 Sam 16:5-14].
  - Shimei was a Benjamite who held a grudge against David for years because he had supplanted Saul.
  - Shimei cursed and threw stones at David [vv. 5-8].
    - ✦ A “man of bloodshed” was appropriate [1 Chr 22:8].
    - ✦ A “worthless man” (Belial) was not [2 Cor 6:15].
    - ✦ Also, David had not raised his hand against Saul.
  - David's bodyguard Abishai wanted to decapitate Shimei for his insolence [v. 9].
  - David forbade Abishai noting that Shimei may well have been an instrument of God [v. 10].
  - David's objectivity put the cursing of Shimei in proper perspective [vv. 11-12].
  - David and his men proceeded to their destination while Shimei continued his taunting [vv. 13-14].
- When Absalom had established himself in Jerusalem, Hushai came and gained his trust with flattery and deceit [2 Sam 16:15-19].

- Absalom secured his throne through an evil practice quite common in the ancient oriental world [2 Sam 16:20-23].
  - Possession of the king's harem was seen to give legitimacy to potential rulers.
  - Evil rulers considered the wives of their predecessors to be part of their plunder.
  - Godly rulers considered the wives of their predecessors to be part of their responsibility.
  - All of this had unfolded as part of God's divine discipline against David [v.22; 2 Sam 12:12].