

# Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

## Absalom is Slain

- David put together a plan to deal with Absalom's pending attack [2 Sam 18:1-5].
  - David made sure the chain of command was clear to everyone [vv. 1-2a].
  - David intended to lead the battle personally but was persuaded to stay behind [vv. 2b-4].
  - David gave clear orders to the commanders not to harm Absalom during the battle [v. 5].
- David's mighty army soundly defeated Absalom and his men [2 Sam 18:6-8].
  - The battle took place in a remote forested area of Ephraim near Mahanaim [v. 6].
  - The battle was won decisively by David's men with heavy losses for Absalom's forces [v. 7].
  - When Absalom's men retreated the Lord used the terrain to increase their casualties [v. 8].
- While fleeing the battle Absalom ended up hanging from an oak tree [2 Sam 18:9-13].
  - One of David's men saw Absalom in the tree and reported it to Joab [v. 10].
  - Joab was incredulous that the man had not killed Absalom on the spot [v. 11].
  - Realizing Joab would have let him kill Absalom, he reminded Joab of David's clear orders [vv. 12-13].
- In carnal rebellion, Joab disobeyed David and killed Absalom [2 Sam 18:14-16].
  - Joab inflicted near-lethal wounds to Absalom while he was still hanging from the tree [v. 14].
  - Joab's armor-bearers then finished the job making sure Absalom was dead [v. 15].
  - Now that Absalom was dead, Joab signaled that the battle was over [v. 16].
- Joab and his men buried Absalom in the forest while the armies of Israel continued their retreat [2 Sam 18:17].
- Absalom had created his own memorial in the King's Valley because he had no son to carry on his name [2 Sam 18:18].
- Joab sent word to David concerning the battle and Absalom's death [2 Sam 18:19-23].
  - Ahimaaz told Joab he wanted to report on the victorious battle [v. 19].
  - Joab sent a Cushite (Ethiopian) man because the report had news of Absalom's death [vv. 20-21].
  - Ahimaaz was not to be denied and, after being given permission, outran the Cushite [vv. 22-23].
- David received the news and mourned the death of Absalom [2 Sam 18:24-33].
  - When the two messengers were spotted by David's watchman, David assumed they were bringing him good news [vv. 24-26].
  - Ahimaaz was the first to report, but he avoided delivering the news to David that Absalom was dead [vv. 28-30].
  - The bad news of Absalom's death was left for the Cushite to deliver and he did not hold back on giving the full report [vv. 31-32].
  - David was devastated when he heard the news and wept in his lament [v. 33].

- NOTES

- God's sovereignty had brought about the result of this battle [2 Sam 17:14].
- Two of David's sons – Amnon [2 Sam 13:28-29] and Absalom – had now died violent deaths as a result of his sin [2 Sam 12:10].
- The typology of David's beloved son dying while hanging on a tree should not be missed.