

The Life of David – Lesson 15

Return of the King

78. Battle of the Wood of Ephraim

II Samuel 18:1-8, 1024 B.C., Age 62

- Absalom is 30 years old.
- Concerning the tactics of this battle:
 - David's forces are estimated to be between 4,000 (Josephus) and 10,000.
 - His forces are divided into three corps under Joab, Abishai, and Ittai – vs. 2
 - David is not present because they fear he will be targeted specially – vs. 3
 - David charges his men to not target Absalom – vs. 5
 - The battlefield is hilly and wooded, possibly named after the battle in Judges 12:4 – vs. 6
 - Absalom's plan appears to have been to overwhelm in numbers.
- vs. 8 – likely means that more died in the flight after the battle than in the battle.

79. Death of Absalom

II Samuel 18:9-19:8, 1024 B.C., Age 62

- vs. 9 – The text says Absalom's head is caught; it only assumed his hair was tangled by the earlier mention of it in II Samuel 14:26.
- vs. 11-12 – Joab offered 4 ounces of silver. The man refused even 25 pounds.
- vs. 18 – Absalom wanted a royal monument but instead was buried in a pit.
- vs. 19-32 – were this in another setting it would be comical.
- vs. 2-4 – David's grief overshadows the military victory.

♪ **Psalm 122**

- I don't think I can agree with Dr. Reese on the timing of this Psalm.

80. Judah Restores David to the Throne

II Samuel 19:9-15, 1024 B.C., Age 62

- His own tribe is hesitant to restore him.
- vs. 13 – David seeks to replace Joab with Amasa, who led Absalom's forces.

81. The Magnanimity of David

II Samuel 19:16-40, 1024 B.C., Age 62

- vs. 16-23 – David pardons Shimei... for now (see I Kings 2:8-9,36-46)
- vs. 24-30 – Mephibosheth welcomes David back

- vs. 29 – David revokes the order of II Samuel 16:4, likely restoring the agreement of II Samuel 9:10.
- vs. 31-40 – David rewards Barzillai for his support, apparently giving his son Chimham an estate – Jeremiah 41:17

♪ **Psalm 23**

- Spurgeon – “This is the pearl of psalms whose soft and pure radiance delights every eye”.

82. Strife Between Judah and Israel

II Samuel 19:41-43, 1024 B.C., Age 62

- We can see the crack forming that will split the kingdom after Solomon’s death.

♪ **Psalm 40**

- vs. 6-7 – referenced in Hebrew 10:5-9

83. Sheba’s Rebellion

II Samuel 20:1-3, 1024 B.C., Age 62

- This appears to be in part a result of the Judah and Israel squabbling over David in the previous event.
- vs. 1 – Belial – means “worthless” or “evil”. Used in II Corinthians 6:15 as a name for Satan. In 17 of its 27 appearances in the Old Testament it is joined with “man/son/daughter of” to form an idiom, likely referring to the person being an idolator and by extension a vile person.
- vs. 1 – similar language in II Chronicles 10:16 when the kingdom split.

84. Campaign Against Sheba, or The Wrath of Joab

II Samuel 20:4-22, 1024 B.C., Age 62

- vs. 5 – Why did Amasa delay? Could he be trying to allow Sheba time to organize? He did back Absalom after all.
- vs. 6 – David slights Joab by giving Abishai command when Amasa delays.
- vs. 8 – This is a ploy to get close to Amasa with a weapon in hand.
- vs. 14-15 – Abel Bethmaacah – four miles west of Dan in far northern Israel
- vs. 22 – Problem solved.
- David does nothing to counter Joab’s usurpation of military authority, perhaps fearing causing more issue or confident in Joab’s loyalty.

♪ **Psalm 27**

- Spurgeon – “It is a song of cheerful hope, well fitted for those in trial who have learned to lean upon the Almighty arm.”