

BECAUSE THOU ART A BLOODY MAN

2 SAMUEL 15:1 – 16:23

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~ Our Spiritual Safari has been considering an unrelenting law of God in our previous several reports, which says, *“whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap; if a man soweth to the flesh he shall, of the flesh, reap corruption.”* David was guilty of lying, murder and outright deceit; and now those things have grown malignant in his family. David’s infant son, who was a product of adultery, has died. One of his daughters, Tamar, has been raped. One of his other sons, Amnon, has been killed by yet another son, Absalom, for committing the rape - and Absalom had to flee to a far country. Well, in this report, we will see an even greater tragedy as Absalom leads a rebellion against David. Make no mistake: the tragic consequences of sin in the life of David is continuing and increasing in intensity throughout this section of Scripture. If you have your Bible, and have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and then read the Scripture in your Bible that this report covers, then read this report, and this Bible study program will begin to mean *much* more as you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

In our previous report, David permitted Absalom to return from exile to Jerusalem; but David only offered a half-hearted forgiveness. Remember, David wouldn’t allow Absalom to see his face. Well, David should not have taken that hard-hearted position. He should have forgiven Absalom the same way God had forgiven David for the murder of Uriah and adultery with now wife number who-knows-how-many; but he didn’t. If David had opened his arms and received Absalom, I don’t think we would even have these two chapters in the Bible. Well, Absalom was a very attractive and likable man – just like his father – and he easily won the hearts of the men and women of Israel. Absalom was the heir apparent and successor for the throne of Israel anyways; so, he just decides to move secretly to overthrow David and take the throne in his own premature timing. It was a dastardly deed; but that is the normal *modus operandi* in this family, it would seem. So, revolution breaks out; and it causes David to have to flee for his life from Jerusalem....

XV

1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

2 And 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.

3 And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

4 Absalom 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!

5 And 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.

6 And 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.

~ Absalom was a natural politician, to be sure. This is the path most men incorporate to get themselves elected in our contemporary society. Like Absalom, our modern-day leaders and legislators have absolutely *NONE* of the required qualifications to ethically execute their office; but they sure are rich and powerful people. Honestly, that's the same method most preachers use to get by today, too. Very few self-proclaimed "leaders" can truly preach or teach; but they look good, and they can effectively burp the spiritual babies by patting them on the back for about an hour each week. Unfortunately, that's what appeals to most so-called Christians today; and, as far as I can tell from the Word of God, that's the way antichrist will rise to full domination. Antichrist is going to be the greatest hand-shaker and people person this world has ever seen – but I digress, sort of.

At this time in which we are studying, Absalom stands in the gate – which is the place of justice – and declares that, if he were the ruler, the people would get the fair justice they weren't currently receiving. It's not too difficult to understand the appeal this had to the people of Israel. Any man who boldly claims he will solve the foreign and domestic problems of the world – on the one condition that you'll vote for him – is going to be followed by a completely ignorant and idiotic world society. Of course, those men become elected officials, and then they do nothing – we've seen it happen again and again throughout centuries of American history and millennia of world history. Well, Absalom is preparing and plotting an insurrection coup d'état against his father, King David, at this time....

7 And 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.

8 For 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.

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

10 But 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.

11 And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.

~ You'll recall Hebron is the place where David was first established as king of Judah after Saul died. That's where Absalom chooses to commence his insurrection. The two hundred men who went along didn't have a clue they were being made part of a rebellion against King David. As we read on, Absalom gained momentum that snow-balled to the point where it couldn't be stopped. Ahithophel was a trusted direct subordinate to David and sat in

the closest inner circle of David's government and, before anyone even realized what was going on, a full-blown rebellion was in progress.

Well, David does a very strange thing in verse fourteen as he packs up and flees from Jerusalem. The only reasonable conclusion to be made for why David would leave the city he loved so much and not fight back is because David knew that God was chastening him for his sin; in fact, we're told that in verse twenty-five. David knew his judgment was not complete, and that this was coming from the hand of God Himself. See, David was disgraced in the city, and he wanted to spare human life – and spare the city from possible ruin – because it would have come to that with fighting inside the walls. A life of sinful indiscretion and willful disobedience on the part of David has now led to utterly shameful family humiliation throughout the kingdom.

Well, Jerusalem has been destroyed more than any other city in history as a result of David's sin; but there's more to this story. See, David had no desire or motivation to press the issue with Absalom. David had no desire to fight and kill his own son; in fact, as we continue, we'll see David's heart was always inclined to spare Absalom's life. I'm sure David loved Absalom above every other person in his life. David wanted Absalom to be the next king – not Solomon. So, David just packs up and takes off with no resistance whatsoever; and his life is in grave danger. Interestingly, in verse thirty-one, we see David ask God to turn the council of Absalom's rebellious army into foolishness – and God did just that – but David *NEVER* asked for any type of judgment against Absalom....

12 And 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.

13 And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

14 And 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.

15 And 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.

17 And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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:

33 Unto whom David said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me:

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.

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.

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.

37 So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

XVI

1 And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

2 And the king said unto Ziba, What meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, The asses be for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.

3 And the king said, And where is thy master's son? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem: for he said, To day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.

4 Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

5 And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

6 And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of King David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

7 And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial:

8 The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.

9 Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

10 And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?

11 And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.

12 It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.

13 And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.

14 And the king, and all the people that were with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.

15 And Absalom, and all the people the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.

16 And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, God save the king, God save the king.

17 And Absalom said to Hushai, Is this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not with thy friend?

18 And Hushai said unto Absalom, Nay; but whom the LORD, and this people, and all the men of Israel, choose, his will I be, and with him will I abide.

19 And again, whom should I serve ? should I not serve in the presence of his son? as I have served in thy father's presence, so will I be in thy presence.

20 Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do.

21 And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.

22 So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

23 And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

~ So, Shimei comes out against David; and Mephibosheth sends provisions. Both of them were of the house of Saul. Shimei was, obviously, still bitter that his father's house had been dethroned; and Mephibosheth is grateful for the kindness David had shown him so long ago. Well, Shimei was correct, David *WAS* a bloody man – and judgment was unquestionably coming upon him – but Shimei was only interested in cursing David. Abishai wanted to silence Shimei completely and immediately. David's reaction is exemplary, as he wasn't interested in revenge. It seems David is beginning to recognize many of the sins in his life.

This leg of our safari ends with Absalom taking over Jerusalem. We also conclude with the shameful act of Absalom taking David's concubines. This was disgustingly open pornography in plain sight of the entire city. We have to leave David out there, once again, in the caves and dens of the earth while all of that was going on in his palace. In our next several reports, Absalom will attempt to gain total victory over David's men. The problem is, David is a veteran army man and a formidable foe to any opponent. Going against him was a dangerous thing to do; and ends in a fatal miscalculation. David wanted to save Absalom but, by the end of our next report, Absalom will be dead; and David will be heartbroken.

Terribly difficult days for David continue as we move along. I hope your heart goes out in empathy. It should. David isn't whimpering or complaining; and I believe this is probably where he wrote, *".... as the hart panteth after the water brook, so panteth my soul after Thee, Oh, God!"* David is only asking that the joy of his salvation be restored; and that things remain right between him and God – even in death! This is also likely where David wrote, *".... though I make my bed in hell, Thou art there."* David is willing to bear the burdens he has brought upon himself through disobedience. David is a great man, friends. He is an otherwise priceless vase with one flaw in it; but let's not be too quick to discount David, because this is the condition of any genuine Christian today. Did you ever meet a Christian who had no flaw? I haven't. I have a flaw – or two. We can all thank God He cares about us, and He won't simply throw us overboard ~

Psalm 103: 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; 4 Who

redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies....12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. 13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. 14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust....16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. 17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; 18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them ~