



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

Old Testament Survey
Lesson 22 – The Troubles of David’s Last Years
(Second Samuel 13-24; First Chronicles 11, 21)

David’s Troubles

The cause of David’s troubles was his great sin. Although that sin was forgiven, God had told David that he would suffer the consequences of his sin: **“I will raise up adversity against you from your own house”** (2 Samuel 12:11).

So, it came to pass. David’s oldest son, Amnon, committed adultery with his own half-sister Tamar. David did not punish Amnon. Two years later, however, Tamar’s brother Absalom killed Amnon in revenge and then fled to Geshur. David did not punish Absalom.

Three years later Joab succeeded in getting Absalom back to Jerusalem, but David refused to see him for two more years. Then Absalom began to steal the hearts of the people from his father David by telling them that he would be a much better king. Finally, Absalom rebelled against David and proclaimed himself king in Hebron. David had to run away to Mahanaim on the other side of the Jordan River.

In the battle that followed, David was more concerned about Absalom’s life than the lives of his own men. But Joab killed Absalom and persuaded David to stop his foolish mourning.

After David returned to Jerusalem, another rebellion was started by the northern tribes under the leadership of a man called Sheba. Joab and his men put down this rebellion. Later on, there was another struggle between David’s sons Adonijah and Solomon.

Some Names to Note

Absalom, David’s son, who took revenge on his brother and later rebelled against his father.

Ahimaaz, the son of the high priest Zadok, who transmitted messages to David together with Jonathan.

Ahithophel, David’s adviser who defected to Absalom and committed suicide when his advice was rejected.

Amasa, Absalom’s chief general whom David appointed as his general but was killed by Joab.

Amnon, David’s son, who lusted for his half-sister Tamar, raped her, and was killed by Absalom.

Araunah or Ornan, the Jebusite who sold his threshing floor to David for the future temple site.

Barzillai, the wealthy old man from Gath who supported David in his struggle with Absalom.

Bathsheba, Uriah’s wife, adulteress with David, then wife of David, and mother of Solomon.

Chimham, the son of Barzillai, who moved to Jerusalem after Absalom was defeated.

Hushai, David’s friend who pretended loyalty to Absalom and gave him bad advice to help David.

Ittai, the Philistine captain from Gath who remained faithful to David and became a leading general.

Joab, David’s nephew, and the commander of his army.

Jonadab, David’s nephew, friend of Amnon, who gave Amnon terrible advice.

Jonathan, the son of the high priest Abiathar, who transmitted messages to David along with Ahimaaz.

Ornan, see Araunah.

Shimei, the man who cursed David as he fled from Absalom.

Tamar, David’s daughter, the full sister of Absalom, the victim of Amnon’s lust and hatred.

The wise woman of Tekoa, whom Joab used to persuade David to bring Absalom to Jerusalem.

Uriah, the Hittite, David's soldier, husband of Bathsheba until he died in battle by David's orders.

Read as many of the listed chapters of Second Samuel and First Chronicles as you can. If you have any questions, ask them.

2 Samuel 13 – The Adultery of Amnon and the Revenge of Absalom

Amnon takes Jonadab's advice and commits adultery with Absalom's sister Tamar (vv. 1-21).

Two years later Absalom kills Amnon in revenge (vv. 23-36).

Absalom is banished to the land of Geshur for three years (vv. 37-39).

2 Samuel 14 – The Return of Absalom to Jerusalem

Joab and the wise woman of Tekoa persuade David to bring Absalom back to Jerusalem (vv. 1-24).

Absalom lives for two years in Jerusalem unseen by David (vv. 25-28).

Joab persuades David to see Absalom again (vv. 29-33).

2 Samuel 15 – The Rebellion of Absalom and Ahithophel, and David's Narrow Escape

Absalom steals the hearts of the Israelites from David (vv. 1-6).

Absalom and Ahithophel rebel in Hebron against David (vv. 7-12).

David and his men, including Ittai, flee from Jerusalem (vv. 13-23).

Note how David had to cross the Kidron valley to the Mount of Olives, like **JESUS** did later.

David sends the two priests, Zadok and Abiathar, back to Jerusalem with the Ark (vv. 24-29).

David asks Hushai to pretend to be for Absalom and give him bad advice (vv. 30-37).

2 Samuel 16 – Ziba, Shimei, Hushai, and Ahithophel

Ziba pretends that Mephibosheth, Jonathan's crippled son, has been disloyal to David (vv. 1-4).

David lets Shimei curse him, even though Abishai wants to kill him (vv. 5-14).

Hushai pretends to be loyal to Absalom (vv. 15-19).

Ahithophel advises Absalom to take David's ten concubines (vv. 20-23).

2 Samuel 17 – God Defeats the Advice of Ahithophel through Hushai

Ahithophel advises Absalom to pursue David at once (vv. 1-4).

Hushai advises Absalom to wait, and Absalom follows Hushai's advice (vv. 5-14).

The priests' sons, Jonathan and Ahimaaz, report Absalom's plans to David (vv. 15-22).

Ahithophel goes home and commits suicide, thus being a preview of Judas Iscariot (v. 23).

Absalom and his general Amasa pursue David in the land of Gad (vv. 24-29).

2 Samuel 18 – The Defeat and Death of Absalom

David's three generals (Joab, Abishai, Ittai) defeat Absalom's army (vv. 1-8).

Joab commands that the trapped Absalom be killed, contrary to David's command (vv. 9-18).

Two messengers report the outcome of the battle to David, and he mourns (vv. 19-33).

"O my son Absalom! ... O Absalom, my son, my son!" (v. ____)

2 Samuel 19 – David's Return to Jerusalem

Joab rebukes David for mourning over Absalom instead of rejoicing in victory (vv. 1-8).

"You love your enemies and hate your friends" (v. ___)

David returns to Jerusalem and appoints Amasa as general to replace Joab (vv. 9-15).

Shimei repents of his cursing, and David forgives him, in spite of Abishai's plan (vv. 16-23).

Mephibosheth reveals Ziba's lies about him (vv. 24-30).

Barzillai sends his son Chimham to David's court (vv. 31-40).

Judah (the South) and Israel (the North) quarrel again (vv. 41-43).

2 Samuel 20 – The Rebellion of Sheba and the Northern Tribes

Sheba and the ten northern tribes rebel against David (vv. 1-3).

Joab kills Amasa, whom David had appointed to pursue Sheba (vv. 4-13).

Joab and Abishai put down the northern rebellion, and Sheba is killed in Abel (vv. 14-22).

A list of David's leading men, including Benaiah, a future general (vv. 23-26).

2 Samuel 21 – The Deaths of Saul's Seven Sons and Four Giants

There is a famine in the land because Saul had broken Joshua's oath to Gibeon (vv. 1-2).

The Gibeonites demand the death of seven of Saul's sons (vv. 3-14).

Note: David refused to let any harm come to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth.

David's men kill four giants, including one with 12 toes and 12 fingers (vv. 15-22).

2 Samuel 22 – David's Song of Thanksgiving to the LORD (almost identical to Psalm 18)

David trusted in the LORD. As God delivered David from all his enemies, so also God in Christ has delivered us from all our enemies. Therefore, let us trust in the LORD.

2 Samuel 23 – The Last Words of David and a List of Mighty Men

David claims that God gave him the words he used in his psalms (vv. 1-7).

"The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue" (v. ___)

David's mighty men, including those three who brought him water from Bethlehem (vv. 8-39).

A similar list is recorded in 1 Chronicles 11:10-47.

2 Samuel 24 – David's Census, the Plague That Followed, and the Purchase of the Temple Site (1 Chronicles 21)

David sins against God by asking for a census (vv. 1-10).

"The anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, 'Go, number Israel and Judah'" (2 Samuel 24:1).

"Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel" (1 Chronicles 21:1).

God sends a plague lasting three days as judgment (vv. 11-15).

The plague comes to an end at Araunah's threshing floor, which David then buys as the site for the future temple (vv. 16-25).

Questions

1. Which sins were committed first by David and then by David's sons?
2. What shows that Amnon did not truly "love" his sister Tamar?
3. List the stages in the relationship between David and his son Absalom.
4. How is Ahithophel a picture of Judas Iscariot?
5. How did David manage to escape from Absalom?
6. List some good points and some bad points in the character of Joab.
7. In what ways is David a picture or preview of his Son Jesus?
8. What did David say about his own writings?
9. How did God direct David to the site of the future temple?