

## “O ABSALOM MY SON, MY SON!”

(2 Samuel 18)

### I. DAVID’S MOVE TO HEBRON (2 Samuel 1-4:12)

### II. DAVID’S REIGN OVER ALL ISRAEL AT JERUSALEM (2 Samuel 5-10:19)

### III. DAVID’S MANY TROUBLES (2 Samuel 11-20:26)

- A. Joab ARRANGES to have Absalom brought home (14:1-23)
- B. King David REFUSES to see Absalom (14:24)
- C. David and Absalom are RECONCILED (14:25-33)
- D. Absalom CONSPIRES against his father the king (15:1-12)
- E. David’s FLIGHT from Jerusalem (15:13-30)
- F. Ahithophel is among the CONSPIRATORS (15:31-37)
- G. David RECEIVES GIFTS from Mephibosheth’s servant Ziba (16:1-4)
- H. The Benjamite Shimei CURSES David to his face (16:5-14)
- I. The APPALLING COUNSEL of Ahithophel (16:15-23)
- J. Absalom seeks the ADVICE of his two wisest COUNSELORS (17:1-14)
- K. Messengers are sent to WARN David about the PLANS of Absalom (17:15-23)
- L. Absalom PURSUES his father while the Lord MEETS David’s needs at Mahanaim (17:24-29)

### M. Absalom’s Army is DEFEATED in the forest of Ephraim (18:1-8)

1. Given a chance to reorganize in Mahanaim, King David exercised his military expertise and \_\_\_\_\_ his men into \_\_\_\_\_ companies; and each of these troops was led by one of his three generals.
  
2. Even though David had a \_\_\_\_\_ to lead his army into battle, he was unanimously \_\_\_\_\_ by his troops to remain in the city, uncharacteristically he \_\_\_\_\_ said, “*Whatever seems best to you I will do.*”

\* What message was emphasized to the king’s three generals in the presence of all his troops?  
(v. 5)

3. David’s battle strategy was brilliant, he \_\_\_\_\_ the conflict out and utilized the \_\_\_\_\_ to his advantage; the result was that Absalom’s superior numbers proved to be \_\_\_\_\_.

### N. Absalom is EXECUTED by Joab (18:9-18)

1. Absalom happened to meet some of David’s soldiers in the woods, and in an attempt to retreat he was caught by his \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ in the branches of a large \_\_\_\_\_; and his mule kept on going without him— leaving him suspended in the air.

2. One of David's soldiers witnessed Absalom's \_\_\_\_\_, and immediately \_\_\_\_\_ it to his general; a quick conversation ensued with Joab.
  
3. Joab arrived on the scene as fast as he could, and he defiantly \_\_\_\_\_ the king by running three spears through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Absalom while he still hung in the tree.

\* What is fitting about the manner in which they disposed of Absalom's dead body? (v. 17)

#### **O. Victory and his son's DEATH is REPORTED to the king (18:19-33)**

1. Initially Joab \_\_\_\_\_ to allow Ahimaaz to be the messenger to inform the king of his son's demise; and this was probably because Joab \_\_\_\_\_ what David had done with two previous messengers who brought news of the deaths of Saul and Ishbosheth.

\* Why would Joab send a Cushite to the king?

2. King David was \_\_\_\_\_ waiting by the main gates of the walled city for any \_\_\_\_\_ from the battlefield, when a watchman spotted the two men running separately.
  
3. Ahimaaz only reported to the king that there had been a great \_\_\_\_\_; whereas the Cushite informed him that Absalom had been \_\_\_\_\_.

\* How did David respond to the news that the rebellion that had threatened his life and throne had been defeated? (v. 33)

\* How can you personally apply this chapter?