**2 Samuel 15** (https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+15/)

Peter B. Luh, 6/23, 24, 25, 7/9, 12/2018

**Absalom's Conspiracy**

15 After this

 Absalom got himself a chariot

 and

 horses,

 and

 fifty men to run before him.

2 And

 Absalom used to rise early

 and

 stand beside the way of the gate.

 And when any man had a dispute

 to come before the king for judgment,

 Absalom would call to him

 and

 say,

 “From what city are you?”

 And when he said,

 “Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel,”

3 Absalom would say to him,

 “See,

 your claims are good

 and

 right,

 but

 there is no man designated by the king

 to hear you.”

4 Then Absalom would say,

 “Oh that I were judge in the land!

 Then every man with a dispute

 or

 cause might come to me,

 and

 I would give him justice.”

5 And

 whenever a man came near

 to pay homage to him,

 he would put out his hand

 and

 take hold of him

 and

 kiss him.

6 Thus Absalom did to all of Israel

 who came to the king for judgment.

 So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

7 And at the end of four years

 Absalom said to the king,

 “Please let me go

 and

 pay my vow,

 which I have vowed to the Lord,

 in Hebron.

8 For your servant vowed a vow

 while I lived at Geshur in Aram,

 saying,

 ‘If the Lord will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem,

 then I will offer worship to the Lord.’”

9 The king said to him,

 “Go in peace.”

 So he arose

 and

 went to Hebron.

10 But

 Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel,

 saying,

 “ As soon as

 you hear the sound of the trumpet,

 then say,

 ‘Absalom is king at Hebron!’”

11 With Absalom

 went two hundred men from Jerusalem

 who were invited guests,

 and

 they went in their innocence

 and

 knew nothing.

12 And while Absalom was offering the sacrifices,

 he sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite,

 David's counselor,

 from his city Giloh

(1Ch. 27:33. “Ahithophel was the king’s counsellor. Hushai the Arkite was the king’s friend.).

 And

 the conspiracy grew strong,

 and

 the people with Absalom kept increasing.

**David Flees Jerusalem**

13 And

 a messenger came to David,

 saying,

 “The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom.”

14 Then David said to all his servants

 who were with him at Jerusalem,

 “Arise,

 and

 let us flee,

 or else

 there will be no escape for us from Absalom.

 Go quickly,

 lest he overtake us quickly

 and

 bring down ruin on us

 and

 strike the city with the edge of the sword.”

15 And

 the king's servants said to the king,

 “Behold,

 your servants are ready

 to do whatever

 my lord the king decides.”

16 So the king went out,

 and

 all his household after him.

 And

 the king left ten concubines

 to keep the house.

17 And

 the king went out,

 and

 all the people after him.

 And

 they halted at the last house.

18 And

 all his servants passed by him,

 and

 all the Cherethites,

 and

 all the Pelethites,

 and

 all the six hundred Gittites

 who had followed him from Gath,

 passed on before the king.

19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite,

 “Why do you also go with us?

 Go back

 and

 stay with the king,

 for you are a foreigner

 and also

 an exile from your home.

20 You came only yesterday,

 and

 shall I today make you wander about with us,

 since I go

 I know not where?

 Go back

 and

 take your brothers with you,

 and

 may the Lord show steadfast love

 and

 faithfulness to you.”

21 But

 Ittai answered the king,

 “ As the Lord lives,

 and

 as my lord the king lives,

 wherever my lord the king shall be,

 whether for death

 or

 for life,

 there also will your servant be.”

22 And

 David said to Ittai,

 “Go then,

 pass on.”

 So Ittai the Gittite passed on with all his men

 and

 all the little ones

 who were with him.

23 And

 all the land wept aloud

 as all the people passed by,

 and

 the king crossed the brook Kidron,

 and

 all the people passed on toward the wilderness.

24 And

 Abiathar came up,

 and

 behold,

 Zadok came also with all the Levites,

 bearing the ark of the covenant of God.

 And

 they set down the ark of God

 until the people had all passed out of the city.

25 Then the king said to Zadok,

 “Carry the ark of God back into the city.

 If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord,

 he will bring me back

 and

 let me see both

 it

 and

 his dwelling place.

26 But

 if he says,

 ‘I have no pleasure in you,’

 behold,

 here I am,

 let him do to me

 what seems good to him.”

27 The king also said to Zadok the priest,

 “Are you not a seer?

 Go back to the city in peace,

 with your two sons,

 Ahimaaz your son,

 and

 Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

28 See,

 I will wait at the fords of the wilderness

 until word comes from you

 to inform me.”

29 So Zadok

 and

 Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem,

 and

 they remained there.

30 But

 David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives,

 weeping as he went,

 barefoot

 and

 with his head covered.

 And

 all the people

 who were with him

 covered their heads,

 and

 they went up,

 weeping as they went.

31 And

 it was told David,

 “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.”

 And

 David said,

 “O Lord,

 please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.”

32 While David was coming to the summit,

 where God was worshiped,

 behold,

 Hushai the Archite came

 to meet him

 with his coat torn

 and

 dirt on his head.

33 David said to him,

 “If you go on with me,

 you will be a burden to me.

34 But

 if you return to the city

 and

 say to Absalom,

 ‘I will be your servant, O king;

 as I have been your father's servant in time past,

 so now I will be your servant,’

 then you will defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel.

35 Are not Zadok

 and

 Abiathar the priests with you there?

 So whatever you hear from the king's house,

 tell it to Zadok

 and

 Abiathar the priests.

36 Behold,

 their two sons are with them there,

 Ahimaaz, Zadok's son,

 and

 Jonathan, Abiathar's son,

 and by them

 you shall send to me

 everything you hear.”

37 So Hushai,

 David's friend,

 came into the city,

 just as Absalom was entering Jerusalem.