**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.