**2 Samuel 18** (https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+18/)

Peter B. Luh, 7/1, 8, 15, 18/2018

**Absalom Killed**

18 Then

 David mustered the men

 who were with him

 and

 set over them commanders of thousands

 and

 commanders of hundreds.

2 And

 David sent out the army,

 one third under the command of Joab,

 one third under the command of Abishai

 the son of Zeruiah,

 Joab's brother,

 and

 one third under the command of Ittai the Gittite.

 And

 the king said to the men,

 “I myself will also go out with you.”

3 But

 the men said,

 “You shall not go out.

 For if we flee,

 they will not care about us.

 If half of us die,

 they will not care about us.

 But

 you are worth ten thousand of us.

 Therefore it is better

 that you send us help from the city.”

4 The king said to them,

 “ Whatever seems best to you

 I will do.”

 So the king stood at the side of the gate,

 while all the army marched out by hundreds and by thousands.

5 And

 the king ordered Joab

 and

 Abishai

 and

 Ittai,

 “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.”

 And

 all the people heard

 when the king gave orders to all the commanders about Absalom.

6 So the army went out into the field against Israel,

 and

 the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim.

7 And

 the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David,

 and

 the loss there was great on that day,

 twenty thousand men.

8 The battle spread over the face of all the country,

 and

 the forest devoured more people that day

 than the sword.

9 And

 Absalom happened

 to meet the servants of David.

 Absalom was riding on his mule,

 and

 the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak,

 and

 his head caught fast in the oak,

 and

 he was suspended between heaven and earth,

 while the mule

 that was under him

 went on.

10 And

 a certain man saw it

 and

 told Joab,

 “Behold,

 I saw Absalom

 hanging in an oak.”

11 Joab said to the man

 who told him,

 “What,

 you saw him!

 Why then did you not strike him there to the ground?

 I would have been glad

 to give you ten pieces of silver

 and

 a belt.”

12 But

 the man said to Joab,

 “Even if I felt in my hand the weight of a thousand pieces of silver,

 I would not reach out my hand against the king's son,

 for in our hearing

 the king commanded you

 and

 Abishai

 and

 Ittai,

 ‘ For my sake

 protect the young man Absalom.’

13 On the other hand,

 if I had dealt treacherously against his life

 (and there is nothing hidden from the king),

 then you yourself would have stood aloof.”

14 Joab said,

 “I will not waste time like this with you.”

 And

 he took three javelins in his hand

 and

 thrust them into the heart of Absalom

 while he was still alive in the oak.

15 And

 ten young men,

 Joab's armor-bearers,

 surrounded Absalom

 and

 struck him

 and

 killed him.

16 Then Joab blew the trumpet,

 and

 the troops came back from pursuing Israel,

 for Joab restrained them.

17 And

 they took Absalom

 and

 threw him into a great pit in the forest

 and

 raised over him a very great heap of stones.

 And

 all Israel fled

 everyone to his own home.

18 Now

 Absalom in his lifetime had taken

 and

 set up for himself the pillar

 that is in the King's Valley,

 for he said,

 “I have no son to keep my name in remembrance.”

 He called the pillar after his own name,

 and

 it is called Absalom's monument to this day.

**David Hears of Absalom's Death**

19 Then

 Ahimaaz (now with David) the son of Zadok said,

 “Let me run

 and

 carry news to the king

 that the Lord has delivered him from the hand of his enemies.”

20 And

 Joab said to him,

 “You are not to carry news today.

 You may carry news another day,

 but

 today you shall carry no news,

 because the king's son is dead.”

21 Then Joab said to the Cushite,

 “Go,

 tell the king

 what you have seen.”

 The Cushite bowed before Joab,

 and

 ran.

22 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab,

 “Come what may,

 let me also run after the Cushite.”

 And

 Joab said,

 “Why will you run, my son,

 seeing that

 you will have no reward for the news?”

23 “Come what may,”

 he said,

 “I will run.”

 So he said to him,

 “Run.”

 Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain,

 and

 outran the Cushite.

24 Now

 David was sitting between the two gates,

 and

 the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall,

 and when he lifted up his eyes

 and

 looked,

 he saw a man running alone.

25 The watchman called out

 and

 told the king.

 And

 the king said,

 “If he is alone,

 there is news in his mouth.”

 And

 he drew nearer and nearer.

26 The watchman saw another man running.

 And

 the watchman called to the gate

 and

 said,

 “See,

 another man running alone!”

 The king said,

 “He also brings news.”

27 The watchman said,

 “I think

 the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok.”

 And

 the king said,

 “He is a good man

 and

 comes with good news.”

28 Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king,

 “All is well.”

 And

 he bowed before the king with his face to the earth

 and

 said,

 “Blessed be the Lord your God,

 who has delivered up the men

 who raised their hand against my lord the king.”

29 And

 The king said,

 “Is it well with the young man Absalom?”

 Ahimaaz answered,

 “ When Joab sent the king's servant, your servant,

 I saw a great commotion,

 but

 I do not know

 what it was.”

30 And

 the king said,

 “Turn aside

 and

 stand here.”

 So he turned aside

 and

 stood still.

**David's Grief**

31 And

 behold,

 the Cushite came,

 and

 the Cushite said,

 “Good news for my lord the king!

 For the Lord has delivered you this day from the hand of all

 who rose up against you.”

32 The king said to the Cushite,

 “Is it well with the young man Absalom?”

 And

 the Cushite answered,

 “May the enemies of my lord the king

 and

 all

 who rise up against you for evil

 be like that young man.”

33 And

 the king was deeply moved

 and

 went up to the chamber over the gate

 and

 wept.

 And

 as he went,

 he said,

 “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom!

 Would I had died instead of you,

 O Absalom, my son, my son!”