**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!”