

2 Sam 14 - David's Darkest Days

Chapter 14 - David brings Absalom back - didn't seem like total forgiveness

- 2 Sam 14:21 **The king said to Joab, "Very well, I will do it. Go, bring back the young man Absalom."** 24 But the king said, **"He must go to his own house; he must not see my face."**

Chapter 15 - Absalom betrays his father and sets himself up as king over Israel

He stole the hearts of the people and set himself up as king

- 2Sa 15:6 NIV Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so **he stole the hearts of the people of Israel.**
- 2Sa 15:10 Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, '**Absalom is king in Hebron.**'"

David fled Jerusalem

- 2Sa 15:13-14 NIV A messenger came and told David, **"The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom."** Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin on us and put the city to the sword."

Chapter 16 - Shimei the stone thrower

- 2Sa 16:5-11 NIV ...Shimei son of Gera, and **he cursed** as he came out. 6 **He pelted David** and all the king's officials with **stones**, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left. 7 As he cursed, Shimei said, **"Get out, get out, you murderer, you scoundrel!** 8 **The LORD has repaid you** for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. **The LORD has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom.** You have come to ruin because you are a murderer!" 9 Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head." 10 But the king said, "What does this have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?'"

Absalom sleeps with David's concubines

- 2Sa 16: 22 NIV So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and **he slept with his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.**

This was a fulfilment of prophecy from 2Sa 12:10-12

- The sword will never depart from David's house
- I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight.

Chapter 17 - Absalom marches against David

- David's loyal friend Hushai stayed with Absalom and became a spy - his advice seemed better than Ahithophel (the other counselor) led Absalom to go to battle against David

- 2Sa 17:14 Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "**The advice of Hushai the Arkite is better than that of Ahithophel.**" **For the LORD had determined to frustrate the good advice of Ahithophel *in order to bring disaster on Absalom.***

Chapter 18 - David loses his beloved son Absalom

2 Sam 18:4 So the king stood beside the gate while all his men marched out in units of hundreds and of thousands. 5 The king commanded Joab, Abishai and Ittai, "**Be gentle with the young man Absalom for my sake.**"

- Absalom's hair got caught in the tree and Joab killed him
- When David heard the news he was grieved - he said: "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you--O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Chapter 19 - David nearly loses those who were loyal to him

2Sa 19:1 NIV **Joab was told, "The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom."** 2 And for the whole army **the victory that day was turned into mourning**, because on that day the troops heard it said, "The king is grieving for his son."

- Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, "**Today you have humiliated all your men**, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines.
- **Now go out and encourage your men.** I swear by the LORD that if you don't go out, not a man will be left with you by nightfall. **This will be worse for you than all the calamities that have come on you from your youth till now.**"

David kept his heart in a good place regarding those who betrayed him

- He made it easy for the people who had rebelled against him to bring him back
- David did not hold those who rebelled as enemies - he called them his flesh and blood

David forgave Shimei the Stone Thrower

- 2Sa 19:19 and said to him, "May my lord not hold me guilty. Do not remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. May the king put it out of his mind. 20 For I your servant know that I have sinned, but today I have come here as the first from the tribes of Joseph to come down and meet my lord the king."
- 2Sa 19:23 So the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king promised him on oath.

Chapter 20 Sheba raises a revolt among the Israelites against David

- Sheba ran to hide in a city, and a wise woman told Joab to spare the city and she would toss his head over the wall to him

SUMMARY

David was dealing with a lot - rebellion, unforgiveness, treachery, God's judgement, questions about what was of God (Shimei, sending the ark back to Jerusalem - if God is pleased with me he will bring me back) - What Sustained him? - we get a glimpse in Psalm 3

Psalm 3 - A psalm of David. When he fled from his son Absalom.

There are two realities

The one that seeks to undermine our confidence in God

- LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! 2 Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him."

The one that is based in the truth of the Word of God

- 3 But you, LORD, are a **shield** around me, my **glory**, the One who **lifts my head high**.
 - **LORD** - Yahweh - the self existent one - "**I AM**"
 - A **shield around me** - a protector, a hedge, the scaly hide of a crocodile
 - **My glory** - the weight, the splendor of my life comes from YOU
 - We can seek for glory in so many things - yet HE IS MY GLORY
 - The one who **lifts my head high**
 - Gen 40:13 NIV Within three days **Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position**, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer.

The truth is - He answers me when I pray

- 4 I call out to the **LORD**, [**I AM**] and he answers me from his holy mountain.
 - **Call out** - to call someone by name - a relationship
 - He **answers** - he pays attention

The truth is - It is He who sustains me

- 5 I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD [**I AM**] sustains me.
 - Sleep can be difficult in times of duress
 - When we sleep we [in a sense] give up control
 - It is the **LORD** who **sustains**

Because he embraces the reality that is based in truth he can say

I will not fear

- 6 I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side.
 - It doesn't matter even if things get worse

God is my deliverer

- 7 Arise, LORD! [**I AM**] Deliver me, my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. 8 From the LORD [**I AM**] comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.
 - May God's blessing be on your people - even in the midst of the struggle