

23 – THE CONSPIRACY (2 SAMUEL 15:1-16:23)

I. Absalom & the Kingdom (2 Samuel 15:1-37)

A. Absalom Wins Their Hearts (15:1-6)

- Absalom provided himself with chariots and horses, as well as 50 men running before him.
- He sat near the city gate and settled lawsuits that were coming for the King's judgment.
- Absalom then proclaimed that he should be made a judge to bring justice to Israel.
- In these things, Absalom stole the hearts of Israel from David.

B. Absalom Conspires in Hebron (15:7-12)

- After living in Jerusalem four years, he requested that he be allowed to go to Hebron.
- He told David that he wanted to fulfill a vow he made when he was in Geshur.
- From Hebron, Absalom sent spies throughout Israel with special orders to proclaim him king.
- With Absalom, 200 men went to Hebron, but they did not know anything about the conspiracy.
- David's trusted counselor Ahithophel joined Absalom in the conspiracy.
- The numbers of people with Absalom increased continually.

C. David Leaves the City (15:13-37)

1. The Decision to Leave (15:13-18)

- When David heard the news, he called to his servants to flee from Absalom.
- In departing, they would spare the city from being attacked by Absalom.
- David left with his whole household, but left 10 concubines to care for the palace.
- On the outskirts of town, he stopped as all his servants passed by.
- Those who went with David included the 600 men came with David from Gath.

2. Ittai the Gittite (15:19-23)

- David told Ittai, the Philistine mercenary commander, to stay since he was an exile.
- David pointed out that he had just recently arrived and should he now wander.

God, His People & the Messiah: A Survey of Old Testament

- Ittai chose to stay with David no matter where he would go in life or death.
- David allowed Ittai and his men with their families to join him.

3. Zadok & the Ark (15:24-29)

- Zadok and all of the Levites with the Ark came as all the people crossed over.
- David told Zadok to carry the Ark back into the city.
- He stated that if he had found favor in the Lord's eyes, he would see it again.
- He also pointed out that their sons could bring him news to inform him.

4. News of Ahithophel (15:30-31)

- David went up the ascent of Mount of Olives, weeping with his head covered.
- Someone informed David that Ahithophel was among the conspirators with Absalom.
- David prayed that the Lord would turn the counsel of Ahithophel to foolishness.

5. Hushai the Archite (15:32-37)

- When David reached the top of the mountain to worship, his friend Hushai approached him.
- Because of his age, David did not want him to go with him.
- Rather, David wanted Hushai render service to Absalom and defeat Ahithophel's counsel.
- Hushai was to then relay any news from the palace to the Zadok and Abiathar.
- So Hushai went into the city as Absalom came into Jerusalem.

II. David's Humiliation (2 Samuel 16:1-14)

A. Ziba and Mephibosheth (16:1-4)

- As David continued past the mountain, he was met by Ziba with donkeys loaded with supplies.
- David asked where Mephibosheth was and Ziba stated he remained in Jerusalem.
- Ziba stated that Mephibosheth felt that the kingdom of his father was coming to him now.
- David then gave all that belonged to Mephibosheth to Ziba.

B. Shimei (16:5-14)

God, His People & the Messiah: A Survey of Old Testament

- Shimei, from the house of Saul, came cursing and throwing stones at David.
- He shouted that David was a blood thirsty rogue and God was taking vengeance for Saul.
- He stated that David was caught in his own evil and that he was a bloodthirsty man.
- Abishai wanted permission to cut off Shimei's head for cursing the king.
- David acknowledges that the Lord had Shimei curse him and so he must be left alone.

III. Absalom's Counselors (2 Samuel 16:15-23)

A. Hushai (16:15-19)

- Hushai came to Absalom and proclaimed "Long live the King!"
- Absalom questioned Hushai loyalty to his father and why he did not go with him.
- Hushai stated that who the Lord and Israel chooses, he will serve.
- Just as he served in the father's presence, he will now serve in the presence of the son.

B. Ahithophel's Advice (16:20-23)

- Absalom asked Ahithophel to give advice concerning what they should do next.
- Ahithophel told Absalom to have sex with the 10 concubines David left to care for the palace.
- he stated that this act would strengthen Absalom's hand as all Israel would see it.
- So, they set up a tent on the top of palace, and Absalom went in to the concubines.
- Ahithophel advice was seen as one who received counsel directly from God.