

LESSON 6: REBELLION CONTINUES WITHIN DAVID'S HOUSEHOLD

HOMEWORK

2nd Samuel: Chapters 15-16

Directions: Use your Study Bible, the internet, or any other study source to help you with these questions.

1. Read 2nd Samuel 15:1-12
 - How did Absalom prepare to announce himself as king?
 - What excuse did Absalom use for going to Hebron?
 - Describe Ahithophel? Why do you think he sided with Absalom?
2. Read 2nd Samuel 15:13-23
 - How did David react after hearing Absalom's plot to take over the kingdom?
 - Describe Ittai and what did he do to show loyalty to David?
 - Where did David flee after leaving Jerusalem?
3. Read 2nd Samuel 15:24-37
 - Describe Zadok and Abiathar?
 - Explain the instructions David gave to Zadok and Abiathar.
 - Describe David's prayer concerning Ahithophel?
4. Read 2nd Samuel 16:1-14
 - Describe Ziba?
 - Why do you think he may have lied about Mephibosheth?
 - What did Shimei do as David approached the Mount of Olives?
5. Read 2nd Samuel 16:15-23
 - How did Hushai deceive Absalom?
 - What advice did Ahithophel give Absalom?
 - What did Absalom do with David's concubines?

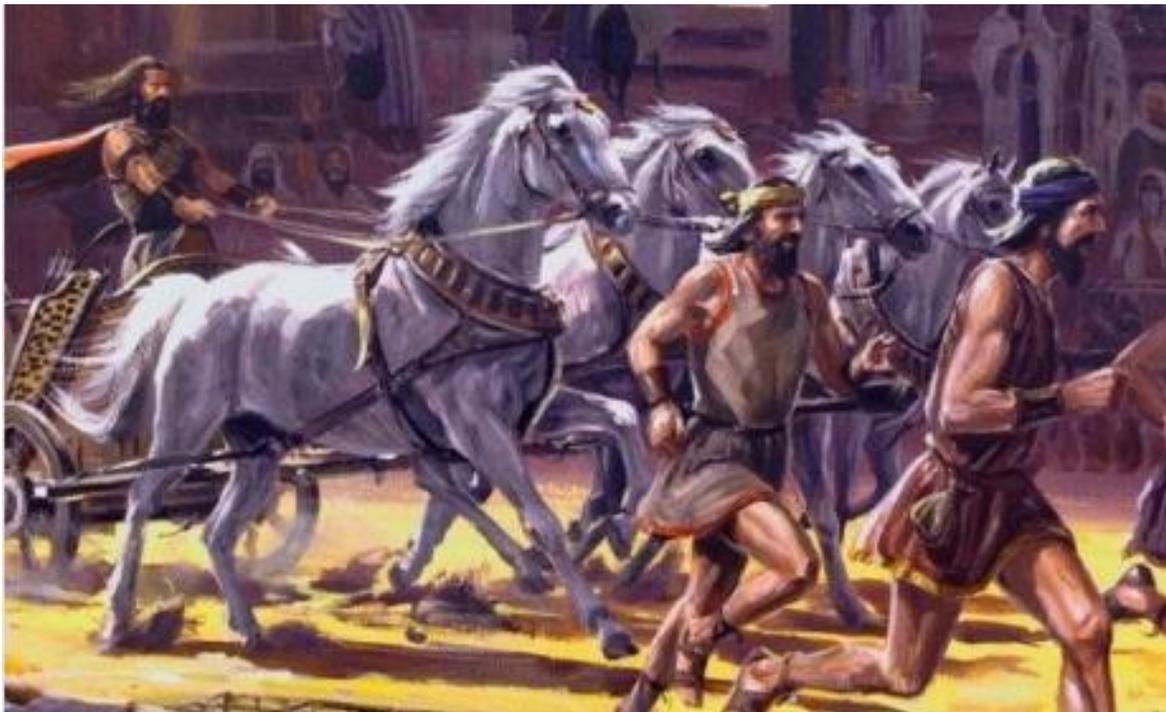
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2ND SAMUEL CHAPTERS 15-16

CHAPTER 15 ABSALOM REVOLTS AGAINST DAVID

Vs. 1-12: Absalom Plans to Take Over the Kingdom

- After Absalom's prior meeting with David (Lesson 5), he provided a chariot and horses for himself and fifty men as runners to pave the way for his kingly announcement.



<https://amaic-kingdavid.blogspot.com/2019/11/alcibiades-greek-absalom.html>

- Apparently, Absalom did not repent after murdering Amnon. During the two years (plus 3 years in Geshur) of separation from his father, Absalom became very bitter.

- We may speculate as to where Absalom got his chariot and horses. 2 Samuel 8:1 states David captured 1,700 Aramean horsemen, hamstringed the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for 100 chariots. Deuteronomy 17:16 states that a king should not acquire horses.
- Apparently, David's quest for **material** possessions came back to haunt him.
- Absalom would rise early in the morning and stand at the gate and meet anyone coming to seek justice from the king. Without a trial, Absalom would give the person their desire, therefore, winning over the hearts of the people.
- After about **four** [40] years, Absalom came to David and requested permission to pay a vow in **Hebron**, his place of birth (2 Samuel 3:2-3).



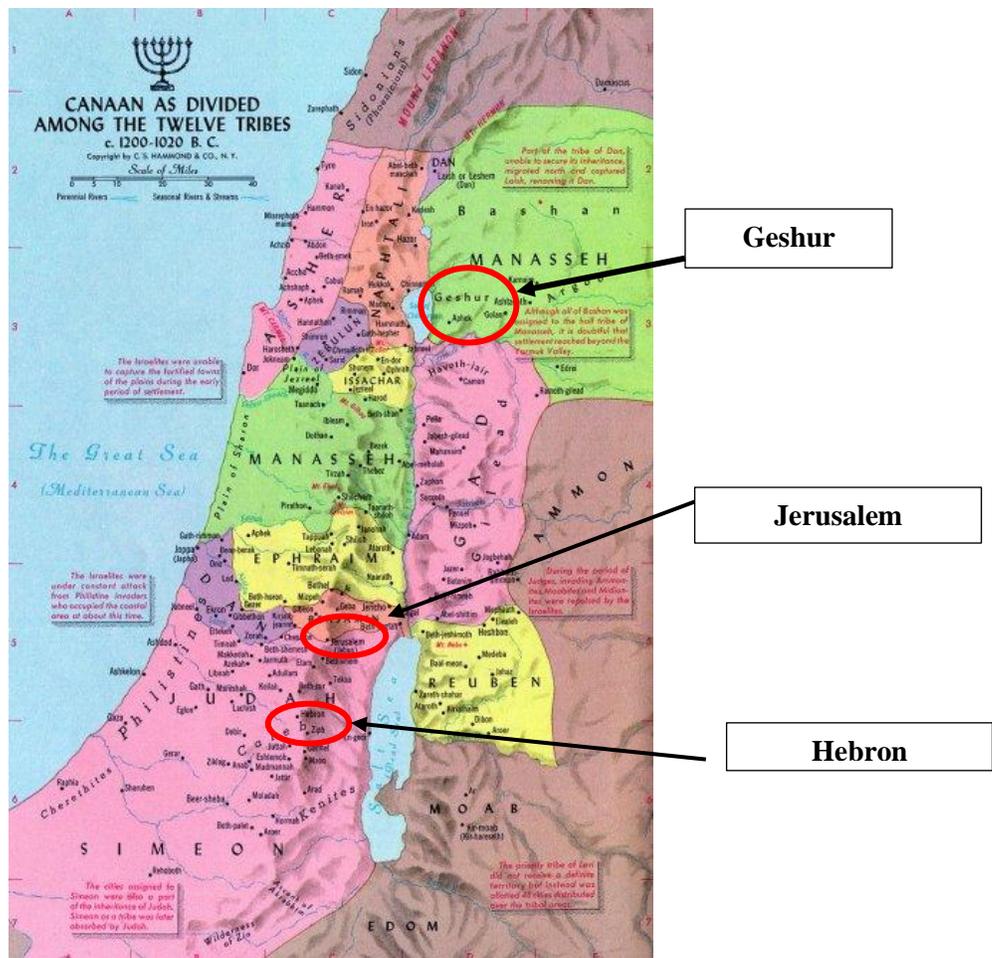
Geshur

Jerusalem

Hebron

<http://katalitheian.blogspot.com/2013/07/blog-post.html>

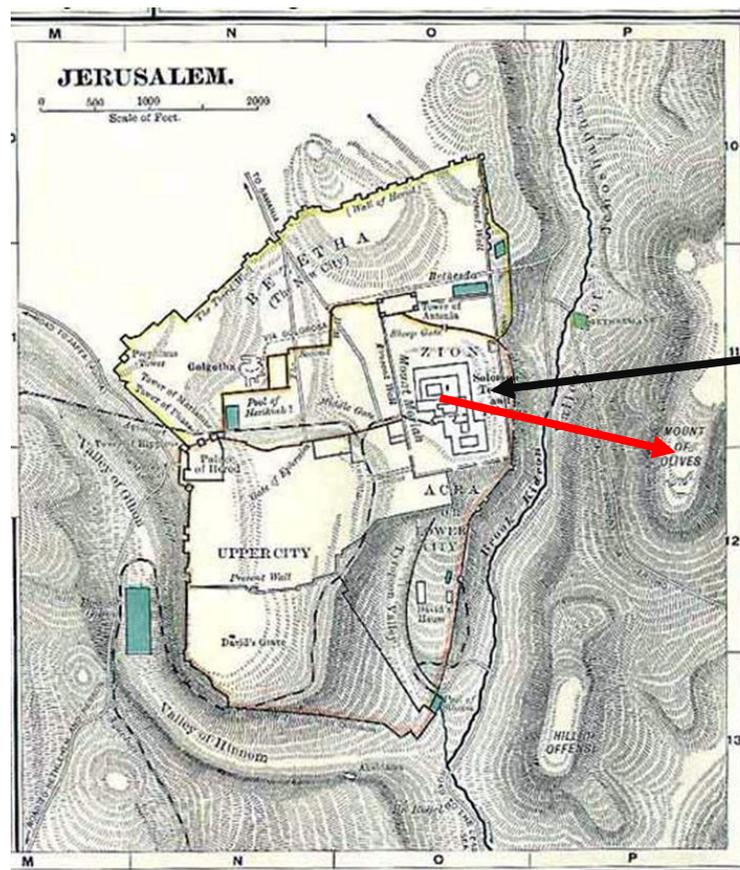
- Hebron, a very symbolic city and originally declared a Levitical city of refuge, protected a person fleeing from a crime.
- Moses gave Caleb Hebron for staying faithful during the 40-year wilderness experience.
- God told David to reside in Hebron after the Philistine's defeated Saul.
- David's anointing as **king** also took place in Hebron.
- Due to the city's significance, Absalom wanted to use Hebron for his anointing as **King**.
- David should have suspected Absalom's motive for going to Hebron. Apparently, Absalom made a vow while in exile at **Geshur**.
- Absalom should have traveled north to Geshur to pay the vow and not Hebron.



<http://katalitheian.blogspot.com/2013/07/blog-post.html>

- Absalom told David he had promised to **serve the Lord** if the Lord restored him back to Jerusalem. Apparently, Absalom had no intention of serving the Lord.
- David gave Absalom permission to go to Hebron.
- Absalom devised a plot and sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel. When the sound of the trumpet blew, Absalom told the people to say, “Absalom is **king** in Hebron.”
- The 200 men who accompanied Absalom did not know of his plot.
- Absalom sent for **Ahithophel**, David’s counselor, Bathsheba’s grandfather, and one of David’s mighty men (2nd Samuel 11:3; 23:34).
- Ahithophel, known as a man who “inquired of the **word** of God”, (2nd Samuel 16:23) sided with Absalom, perhaps, due to David’s sin with Bathsheba.

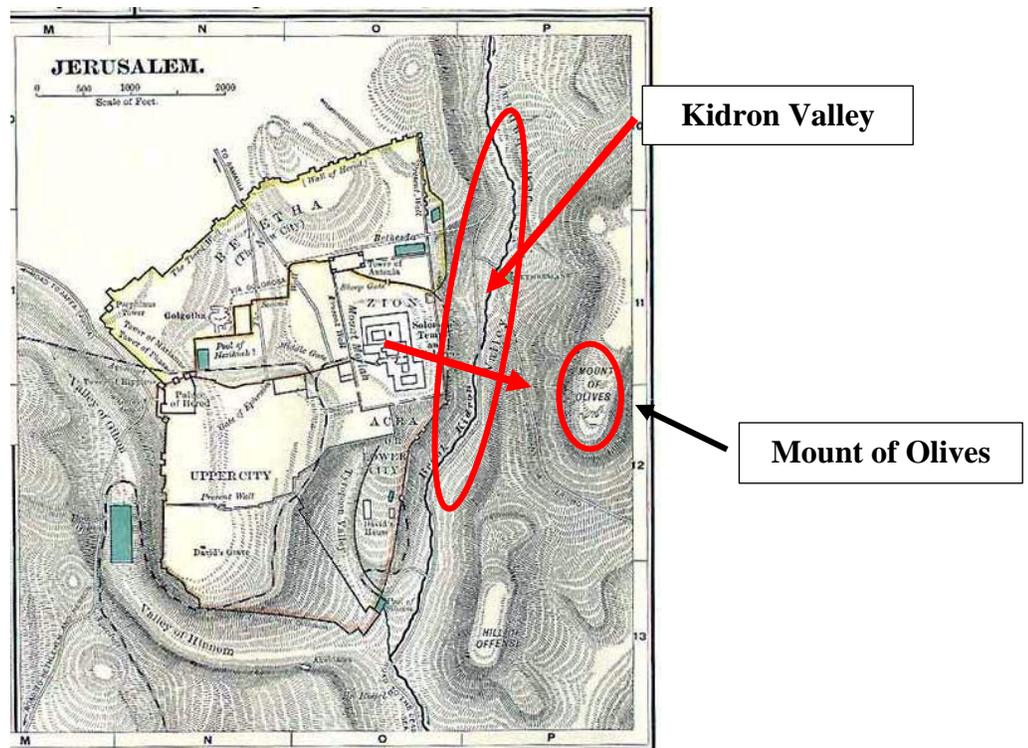
Vs. 13-23: David Flees from Absalom



David's
Route

<https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/israel/maps->

- A messenger came and told David that Absalom had taken over the kingdom.
- David made haste to leave **Jerusalem**, however, he left ten concubines to keep watch over the house.
- When David left Jerusalem, he stopped at the last house and let all his followers pass by. He possibly wanted to demonstrate his leadership and loyalty.
- David told **Ittai**, a recent mercenary who had joined David's army, he did not have to go with David but could stay in Jerusalem and support Absalom.
- Ittai had commanded the Gittites-mercenary soldiers from Gath. Goliath lived in the city of Gath. David feigned madness and that city. The king of Gath also harbored David later when he fled from Saul.
- Ittai showed his loyalty to David and refused to stay home. David eventually made Ittai **commander** over one-third of his army.
- David and his men passed eastward across the **Kidron Valley** (a valley east of Jerusalem).



<https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/israel/maps-jerusalem.htm>

Vs. 24-29: David Sends Zadok and Abiathar, the Priest, Back to Jerusalem

- **Zadok** and **Abiathar** brought the Ark of the Covenant with them.
- David showed amazing trust in God and told Zadok and Abiathar to take the Ark back. David believed if the Lord favored him, the Lord would protect him without the Ark.
- David also believed if the Lord desired to punish him, then he would willfully take the punishment.
- David also wanted Zadok and Abiathar to act as **informants**.

Vs. 30-37: Zadok and Abiathar Render Themselves as Informants

- David continued his journey up to the **Mount of Olives**. Jesus ascended into heaven after His crucifixion from the Mount of Olives. Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives on the day of His second coming (Acts 1:11-12; Zechariah 14:4).



<https://www.dreamstime.com/stock-photos-panorama-church-all-nations-mary-magdalene-convent-mount-olives-jerusalem-image29788573>

- All David's people wept and mourned as they ascended the Mount of Olives.

- David heard **Ahithophel** had conspired with Absalom. David prayed the Lord would make Ahithophel's counsel foolish.
- As David approached the top of the Mount of Olives, **Hushai**, one of David's counselors, met him with his coat torn and dust on his head.
- David sent Hushai back to pretend loyalty to Absalom. David told Hushai to counter all that Ahithophel said and to act as a spy for David.
- David told Hushai to send word through Zadok and Abiathar (the priests), and through Zadok and Abiathar's sons, Ahimaaz and Jonathan (not Jonathan-the son of Saul). God showed His favor toward David by giving guidance and protection.

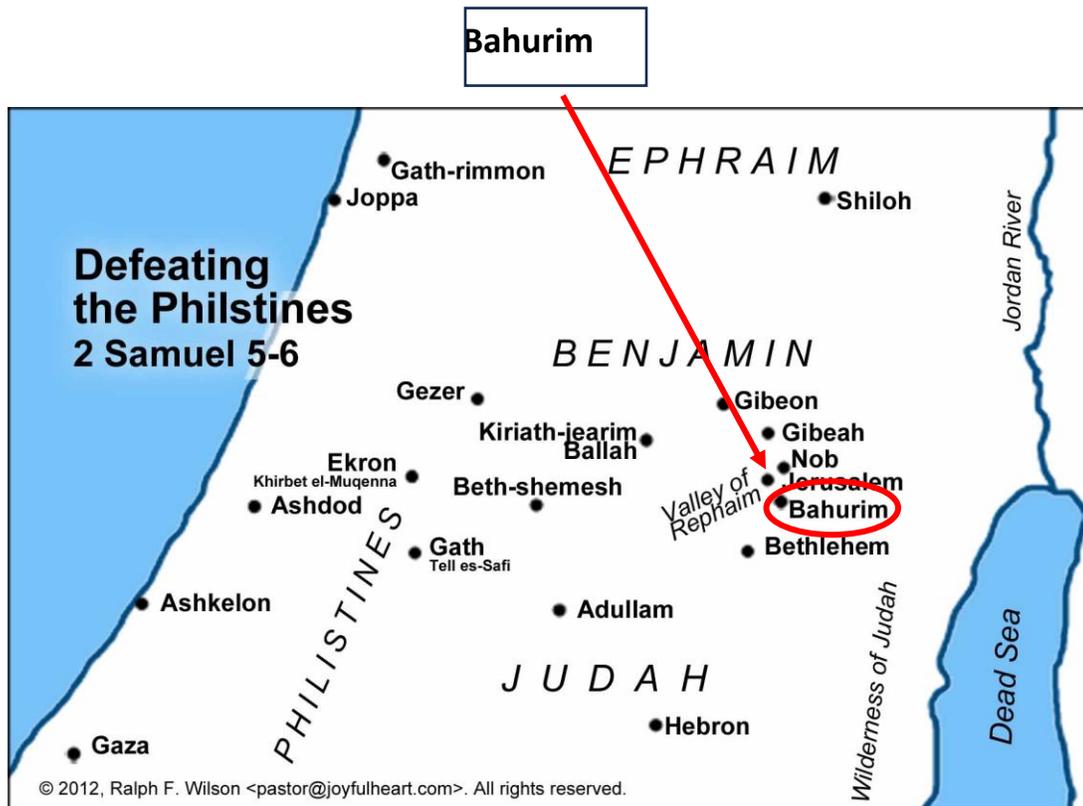
CHAPTER 16: ABSALOM ARRIVES IN JERUSALEM

Vs. 1-14: David Encounters Ziba and Shimei

- After David passed the Mount of Olives summit, **Ziba**, Mephibosheth's servant, came to him with a couple of saddled donkeys, two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred clusters of raisins, a hundred summer fruits, and a jug of wine.



- Ziba served King **Saul**. David made Ziba Mephibosheth's servant after Saul's death. It makes one wonder if Ziba harbored jealousy since he had to serve Mephibosheth.
- David inquired why Mephibosheth had not gone with him. Ziba apparently lied and told David he stayed in Jerusalem hoping to have the kingdom returned to him.
- Apparently, David believed Ziba for David gave **all** Mephibosheth's possessions to him.
- As David approached Bahurim (ba-**he**-rum), a village east of the Mount of Olives, a man named **Shimei** (Shim-a) began cursing and throwing stones at David while accusing him of bloodshed. Possibly, Shimei charged David with the deaths of: Abner, Ish-bosheth, and Uriah. Shimei, a distant relative of Saul, came from the tribe of Benjamin.



- David accepted the rebuke and continued on his way. Shimei might have resided in “Cush” (Psalm 7:1,6).
- Compare David’s words and actions toward Shimei with his words and actions against Nabal (1st Samuel 25:2).

Vs. 15-23: Absalom Arrives in Jerusalem

- After Absalom arrived in Jerusalem, **Hushai**-David’s spy, came to Absalom and pledged his loyalty.
- Absalom asked for **Ahithophel’s** advice. Ahithophel said that Absalom should go to his father’s concubines. This act would show Absalom had taken over the throne.
- Absalom pitched a tent on the roof of the palace for all to see. Absalom violated all David’s concubines. This act fulfilled Nathan’s prophecy in 2 Samuel 12:11-12.



<https://timeline.cityofdauid.org.il/event/king-davids-palace/>

SUMMARY

David paid a great price for his sin against Bathsheba. David lost his kingdom, his son, his position, and his concubines. David's situation should show how sin can ruin a person's life. Though we repent before God and He cleanses us from all sin, which leads to spiritual death, the physical consequences of sin may result in great loss.

The Lord's Prayer should be embedded upon our hearts. Matthew 6:9-13 states, "...Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Sin will never cause a Christian to lose their salvation. It can, however, cause great sorrow. With repentance, God can turn all situations into good. Romans 8:31 states, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

LESSON 6: REBELLION CONTINUES WITHIN DAVID'S HOUSEHOLD
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
2ND Samuel: Chapters 15-16

1. Deuteronomy 17:16-17 states Israel's king should not multiply horses or gain large amounts of gold and silver. Absalom might have acquired his chariots and horses from David's conquests.
 - A. Why do we often crave material possessions when they tend to have such short-term effects?
 - B. How can Philippians 4:11-13 help when desiring material possessions?
 - C. Should we not want material possessions?
 - D. How can we balance the desire for contentment with the desire for obtaining material possessions?

2. David should have questioned Absalom's desire for going to Hebron.
 - A. How can we discern between a person's scheme or an honest request?
 - B. Has someone ever scammed you? Explain.
 - C. If so, how did you react?

3. Absalom told David he wanted to go to Hebron and serve the Lord.
 - A. Did Absalom have an honest heart?
 - B. How can we discern the true character of a person?
 - C. How would you counsel a person who wanted advice about a date, a marriage proposal, or a business partner?

4. David fled Jerusalem when he learned Absalom had taken over his kingdom.
 - A. How did David's sin with Bathsheba result in his predicament?
 - B. Did David think he would get his kingdom back?
 - C. It must have hurt David to see his friends turn against him.
 - D. How did God show His presence to David during this troubled time?

5. Both David and Absalom committed grave sins.
 - A. How did David and Absalom differ in their actions after sinning?
 - B. Both David and Absalom experienced punishment for their sins. Why do you think David repented and Absalom did not?
 - C. What causes one person to repent while another never does (John 16:7-8)?