

2 Samuel 15:13 – 16:14

THE EXILE OF DAVID

PART 1

- I. David Departs Jerusalem (2 Samuel 15:13-17)
 - A. A messenger came to David declaring that the nation had sided with Absalom in his plot to take the throne.
 1. This was an exaggeration (cf. 13:30).
 2. However, David responded with true leadership to protect his faithful supporters and the city of Jerusalem.
 - B. Thus, David made the decision to depart from Jerusalem.
 - C. He left behind 10 of his concubines to keep the house.
 - D. He and his followers traveled to Beth-merchak, the last house before one left the city.

- II. David's Loyal Servants (2 Samuel 15:18-23)
 - A. Traveling with the King were his loyal servants, including the Cherethites, Pelethites, and Gittites – 600 strong.
 1. These were men who served as David's bodyguard or secret service.
 2. They seem to have been foreigners, some even from Gath.
 3. They were under the leadership of Benaiah (8:18).
 4. It is possible that this is a reference to David's "mighty men."
 - B. Ittai of Gath seems to have been the leader of the Gittites.
 - C. David offered him the chance to return home, but Ittai pledged his loyalty to David and, more importantly, to Jehovah.
 - D. All these, with their families, passed over the brook of Kidron as the country wept for their exiled leader.

- III. David's Faithful Spies (2 Samuel 15:24-37)
 - A. Zadok and the Levites remained loyal to the true King of Israel.
 - B. They brought the Ark of the Covenant from the city to travel with David.
 - C. However, David ordered them to return it to Jerusalem, declaring his trust in God.
 - D. David instructed Zadok and Abiathar – and their sons – to remain in Jerusalem and to report to him as spies.
 - E. David himself climbed the Mount of Olives, weeping, barefoot, and with his head covered – demonstrating his sorrow and humiliation.
 - F. Word came to David that his trusted advisor, Ahithophel, had conspired with Absalom against the King.
 1. Remember that Ahithophel was Bathsheba's grandfather.
 2. David prayed that God would turn the usually wise counsel of Ahithophel to foolishness (cf. Psalm 55:12-14).
 - G. David's friend, Hushai, approached and the King asked him to serve Absalom as a counsellor to fight against the plans of Ahithophel.
 - H. This spy ring would allow David to know what was happening in the city and to work toward his return to the throne.

- IV. David's Opportunistic Enemies (2 Samuel 16:1-14)
 - A. Ziba used this as an opportunity to do good toward David; however, his motives were corrupt.

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- B. He only wanted to find favor with David so he would be given the inheritance of Mephibosheth.
 - C. Note that he did not offer to go into exile with David.
 - D. Shimei saw this as an opportunity to curse the King whom he felt had wronged his family, the descendants of Saul.
 - E. David demonstrated great patience with both of these men and showed his trust in God for justice and righteousness.
 - F. Finally, they made it to a place where they could rest for the evening.
- V. David's Unwavering Faith (Psalms 3 – 4)
- A. David's enemies had greatly increased in number (Psa. 3:1-2).
 - B. This did not diminish his faith in or his prayers to God (Psa. 3:3-4).
 - C. After praying, David slept, resting in his trust in the Lord (Psa. 3:5-6).
 - D. He had learned God's protection and remained confident (Psa. 3:7-8).
 - E. Do what is right, trust in God, and be at peace (Psalm 4).