### 2 Samuel

## Chapter 15

1But after that, AbSalom obtained some chariots and horsemen, and he recruited 50 men to run in front of him. 2Then he would get up early each morning and station himself along the street by the city gate. And whenever he saw someone who was coming to try a case before the king, he would call out to him and ask:  
  
 ‘What city are you coming from?’  
  
And if he replied...  
  
 ‘Your servant is from one of the tribes of IsraEl.’  
  
3...he would say:  
  
 ‘Look, you have a good case; however, no one from the king will listen to it. 4Why doesn’t he appoint me to be the judge of the land and let me handle the disputes and cases? For I’d give you justice!’  
  
5And whenever some man would come and bow before him, he would reach out and grab him, then kiss him. 6Well, AbSalom was doing this to everyone from IsraEl who came to the king for a judgment, and as a result, he was winning the hearts of the men of IsraEl.  
  
7Then at the end of four years, AbSalom went to his father and said:  
  
 ‘I’m going to HebRon to pay a vow that I made to Jehovah...  
  
 8‘For, while I was in GedSur, Syria, I vowed to Jehovah that if He would return me to JeruSalem, I’d be His servant.’  
  
9And the king said to him:  
  
 ‘Go in peace.’  
  
So he got up and went to HebRon.  
  
10Now, AbSalom had sent spies among all the tribes of IsraEl, who were told:  
  
 ‘When you hear the sound of trumpets blowing, you must shout:  
  
 ‘AbSalom is now reigning as king in HebRon!’  
  
11So after that, AbSalom left JeruSalem along with 200 men (who really didn’t suspect anything). 12Then, while he was offering his sacrifices, AbSalom sent for AhiThophel the Gelamonite (David’s advisor) from his city of Gola. And there he formed a strong confederation of quite a few people who started following AbSalom.  
  
13Well, when the report came to David that the hearts of the men of IsraEl had turned towards AbSalom, 14David said to all his servants in JeruSalem:  
  
 ‘We must get up and run from here, for nothing can save us from AbSalom!  
  
 ‘Let’s hurry and go, so he doesn’t overtake us and do bad things to us, then destroy the city with swords!’  
  
15And the king’s servants replied:  
  
 ‘We’ll do whatever our lord the king says…  
  
 ‘Look! We’re your servants!’  
  
16So the king and his whole house just walked away… However, he left 10 of his concubines behind to guard the house. 17Then the king and all his servants traveled on foot to a house that was very far away.  
  
  
18Well, while the king and his servants were on the way into the desert, they [met up with some] Cherethites and Phelethites that were waiting [for him] on the Mount of Olives.  
  
So, along with all the people who came with [David], there were now 600 great men and warriors from the Cherethites, Phelethites, and Gethites, because 600 men had walked from Gath to join the king.  
  
19But the king asked ItTai (the Gethite):  
  
 ‘Why are you traveling with us? You should return and stay with the [new] king!  
  
 ‘Since you’re foreigners who’ve just left your homes to join me, 20why are you [planning to] travel with us… Are you moving away from your homes?’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘I’ll go wherever you are going.’  
  
[But David said]:  
  
 ‘Go back, and take your brothers with you; for Jehovah will bring you kindness and truth!’  
  
21But ItTai replied to the king:  
  
 ‘As Jehovah lives, and as my lord the king lives... No matter what happens to my lord, whether he lives or dies, I’ll be his servant.’  
  
22And the king said:  
  
 ‘Then come with me!’  
  
And ItTai the Gethite and all his servants (a huge number of them) traveled with the king.  
  
  
23Well, throughout the land, people were crying and wailing... Then the king and all his people crossed the Cedar (Kidron) Wadi and traveled towards the edge of the desert.  
  
24{Look!} There they met up with ZaDok and all the Levites who were carrying the Chest of the Sacred Agreement of Jehovah from the [Sacred Tent]. Then they set the Chest of God down, and AbiAthar and all the people from the city [of JeruSalem] said that they were going to come with him.  
  
25But the king said to ZaDok:  
  
 ‘Just take the Chest of God back to the city... For if I should find favor in the eyes of Jehovah and He returns me, He will show it to me in all its glory once again.  
  
 26‘But if He should say that He doesn’t want me; then look… Here I am, may He do to me whatever is good in His eyes.’  
  
27And the king told ZaDok the Priest:  
  
 ‘Look! You, your son AhiMaAz, your other two sons, and JoNathan (son of AbiAthar) should return to the city in peace. 28For, although I’m now going to live like a soldier in the desert, I’ll wait there for you to send word to me.’  
  
29So ZaDok and AbiAthar returned the Chest of God to JeruSalem, and it stayed there.  
  
  
30Then David climbed the Mount of Olives barefoot and with his head covered, crying. And all the people came with him with their heads covered and crying.  
  
31Well when David was told that AhiThophel had joined the confederation with AbSalom, he said:  
  
 ‘O Jehovah, my God,  
  
 ‘Confuse the counsel of AhiThophel!’  
  
32Then when David got to Ros, he bowed there before God.  
  
And {Look} coming to meet him was HuShai, David’s best friend, ripping his clothes and piling dirt on his head.  
  
33But David said to him:  
  
 ‘If you come with me, you’ll just be a burden to me. 34So, return to the city, and say this to AbSalom:  
  
 ‘Since your brothers left me to follow your father, I’m your servant now, O king; so, please allow me to live!  
  
 ‘Although I was once your father’s servant, I’m yours now.’  
  
 ‘And if you’ll do this for me, you’ll confuse the counsel of AhiThophel!  
  
 35‘Look, there are the Priests, ZaDok and AbiAthar. Go back with them and report everything to them that you hear from the [palace] of the king! 36And here are their two sons, AhiMaAz (son of ZaDok) and JoNathan (son of AbiAthar)... Use them to send back every word that you hear.’  
  
37So HuShai (David’s best friend) returned to the city as AbSalom entered JeruSalem.