

RETURN OF THE KING

Part 2

2 Samuel 15 – 19 (NKJV)

The Sending of Two Runners

- In our past lesson we saw that
- David fled Jerusalem
- He was met by Zadok , Ahimaaz his son, Jonathan the son of Abiathar and the Levites bearing the ark of the covenant of God.
- He was met by Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth and Hushai the Archite.
- Absalom was slain during the battle.

We will first look at two men sent by Joab who ran to tell David news of the battle.

1-The Cushite

2- Ahimaaz

- **2 Samuel 18:14-18 (NKJV) Absalom's death**
Then Joab took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart and ten young men who bore Joab's armor surrounded Absalom, and struck and killed him.
They took Absalom and cast him into a large pit in the woods, and laid a very large heap of stones over him.
- **2 Samuel 18:19-21 (NKJV) sending the news**
Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "Let me run now and take the news to the king, how the LORD has avenged him of his enemies." And Joab said to him, "You shall not take the news this day, for you shall take the news another day. But today you shall take no news, because the king's son is dead."
Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." So the Cushite bowed himself to Joab and ran.
- **Who is the Cushite?** perhaps an Ethiopian, a descendant of Noah's son, Ham.

- **2 Samuel 15:24-29 (NKJV) Who is Ahimaaz?**

²⁴ There was Zadok also, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar went up until all the people had finished crossing over from the city.

²⁵ Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back and show me *both* it and His dwelling place.

²⁶ But if He says thus: 'I have no delight in you,' here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him."

²⁷ The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Are you not a seer? Return to the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

²⁸ See, I will wait in the plains of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me."

²⁹ Therefore Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem. And they remained there.

- **2 Samuel 15:32-36 (NKJV) What was his mission?**

³² Now it happened when David had come to the top *of the mountain*, where he worshiped God--there was Hushai the Archite coming to meet him with his robe torn and dust on his head.

³³ David said to him, "If you go on with me, then you will become a burden to me.

³⁴ But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; *as I was your father's servant previously*, so I *will* now also *be* your servant,' then you may defeat the counsel of Ahithophel for me.

³⁵ And *do you not have* Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? Therefore it will be *that* whatever you hear from the king's house, you shall tell to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

³⁶ Indeed *they have* there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz, Zadok's *son*, and Jonathan, Abiathar's *son*; and by them you shall send me everything you hear."

- **2 Samuel 17:15-21 (NKJV) Perils of their mission!**

¹⁵ Then Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Thus and so Ahithophel advised Absalom and the elders of Israel, and thus and so I have advised.

¹⁶ Now therefore, send quickly and tell David, saying, 'Do not spend this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily cross over, lest the king and all the people who *are* with him be swallowed up.' "

¹⁷ Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed at En Rogel, for they dared not be seen coming into the city; so a female servant would come and tell them, and they would go and tell King David.

¹⁸ Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom. But both of them went away quickly and came to a man's house in Bahurim, who had a well in his court; and they went down into it.

- ¹⁹ Then the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground grain on it; and the thing was not known.
²⁰ And when Absalom's servants came to the woman at the house, they said, "Where *are* Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" So the woman said to them, "They have gone over the water brook." And when they had searched and could not find *them*, they returned to Jerusalem.
²¹ Now it came to pass, after they had departed, that they came up out of the well and went and told King David, and said to David, "Arise and cross over the water quickly. For thus has Ahithophel advised against you."
- It seems that Ahimaaz, David's courier had a reputation for being a bearer of good news.

Bible Commentaries

- **2 Samuel 18:22-32 (NIV) Permission to run granted**

²² Ahimaaz son of Zadok again said to Joab, "Come what may, please let me run behind the Cushite." But Joab replied, "My son, why do you want to go? You don't have any news that will bring you a reward."

²³ He said, "Come what may, I want to run." So Joab said, "Run!" Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain and outran the Cushite.

²⁴ While David was sitting between the inner and outer gates, the watchman went up to the roof of the gateway by the wall. As he looked out, he saw a man running alone.

²⁵ The watchman called out to the king and reported it. The king said, "If he is alone, he must have good news." And the man came closer and closer.

²⁶ Then the watchman saw another man running, and he called down to the gatekeeper, "Look, another man running alone!" The king said, "He must be bringing good news, too."

- ²⁷ The watchman said, "It seems to me that the first one runs like Ahimaaz son of Zadok." "He's a good man," the king said. "He comes with good news."
²⁸ Then Ahimaaz called out to the king, "All is well!" He bowed down before the king with his face to the ground and said, "Praise be to the LORD your God! He has delivered up the men who lifted their hands against my lord the king."
²⁹ The king asked, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" Ahimaaz answered, "I saw great confusion just as Joab was about to send the king's servant and me, your servant, but I don't know what it was."
³⁰ The king said, "Stand aside and wait here." So he stepped aside and stood there.
³¹ Then the Cushite arrived and said, "My lord the king, hear the good news! The LORD has delivered you today from all who rose up against you."

- ³² The king asked the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" The Cushite replied, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to harm you be like that young man."
- Ahimaaz is the son of the priest, Zadok. He is very excited and enthusiastic about notifying David of the great victory. He also gives God the glory and credit for the victory. Ahimaaz is a reminder to us that we are to be in the business of glorifying God in our life.
- Joab did not want Ahimaaz to deliver the message. Instead, he sends an Ethiopian slave. Ahimaaz was like a son to Joab. He may have wanted to protect him from David because Joab remembers what David did to the messenger who delivered the message of Saul's death. He killed him. Treasures From the Scriptures

- After pressing Joab more, he lets him run. Ahimaaz runs around the forest obstacles and takes the way of the plains which was longer, but had less obstacles. Ahimaaz was dog-determined to get his own way. He would not listen to Joab, the authority in his life. Ahimaaz is about to find out that getting his own way was not all cracked up to be what he imagined. He was about to understand the cautions of Joab.
- Unfortunately, the message of Ahimaaz is like the message of many liberal preachers today who preach to tickle the ears but not tell the truth. He says, "All is well!" This is a fairy tale. All was not well for David because his son is dead. The king's need is, "What about my son?" Ahimaaz, like the liberals of our day, avoids the negative and the unpleasant. He doesn't want to hurt any feelings. He had the truth, but was not willing to tell it.

Treasures From the Scriptures

- Cushi had a balanced message, sharing the good and the bad. He told the whole truth about Absalom's fate. As Christians, we are to have all the facts about salvation. Be prepared to tell the whole truth about Heaven and Hell.
- [1 Peter 3:15](#)—*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*
- **2 Samuel 18:33** ³³ The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, 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!"
- David is "moved." This word means "a violent trembling of body." He grieves for Absalom and wishes he could have died in his place.

- **2 Samuel 19:1-4 (NIV)**

¹ 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."

³ The men stole into the city that day as men steal in who are ashamed when they flee from battle.

⁴ The king covered his face and cried aloud, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

- Perhaps David's grief shows us the heart of God over unrepentant sinners that die with out coming to Christ.

- **Matthew 18:12-14 (NIV) Not willing any be lost**
¹² "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?
¹³ And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.
¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.
- **2 Peter 3:9 (KJV) All should come to repentance**
⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

- **Ezekiel 33:11 (NKJV) Turn, turn**

¹¹ Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

- **Genesis 6:5-6 (NKJV) God is grieved**

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

⁶ And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

- **Psalms 95:9-11 (KJV) grieved to wrath**

When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with *this* generation, and said, It *is* a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

The Cross, The Cross, Oh that's our gain Because on that the Lamb was slain

- **Luke 9:51 (NKJV) His time had come**

⁵¹ Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,

- **John 18:4 (NKJV) Knowing ... went forward**

⁴ Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward ...

- **Luke 23:27-31 (NKJV) As he went people wept**

²⁷ And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him.

²⁸ But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

What was it for God to turn his back on his only son and have him die?

- **Matthew 27:45-46 (NKJV)**

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*

- **Mark 15:33-34 (NKJV)**

³³ Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*

Was God grieved when Jesus was put to death?

- You and I can not fathom the sheer oceanic depth of love God the Father has for his son Jesus. But I can only imagine in that moment when he turned away, that the Father's heart was also stricken with great grief at the death of his only Son. (commentator expressing my thoughts)
- Did Heaven hear the voice of the heart of God as Jesus was dying, "My SON, My SON, My well beloved SON in whom I am well pleased?"
- David would never see Absalom again.
- God's Son is now at His right hand.