

RETURN OF THE KING

Part 3

2 Samuel 19 - 20 (NKJV)

Past Lesson

- In our past lesson we saw that
- David was told of the death of his son, Absalom.
- We read of the king covering his face and crying aloud, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"
- The victory that day was turned into mourning because of David grieving for the loss of his son.
- We questioned what it must have been for God to turn his back on his Son in whom he is well pleased.

We will next look at the returning process of David towards becoming "The King of Israel" once again.

2 Samuel 19

- ¹ And Joab was told, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom."
² So the victory that day was *turned* into mourning for all the people. For the people heard it said that day, "The king is grieved for his son."
³ And the people stole back into the city that day, as people who are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.
⁴ But the king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Victory turned to mourning.

The people entered the city in shame as though they had lost the battle. They felt ashamed that they had won. They were humiliated as if they had been defeated.

They had won the war, saved the king and his family, and Absalom was slain. Cheering crowds were absent when the soldiers returned from battle. The king's son and thousands of Jews were dead in this civil war. Why was the victory turned to sorrow?

- 1. The **Decree** of God's Judgment. Nathan told David the sword would not depart from David's house. David had used the sword of the enemy to cover up the murder of Uriah and now once again he would feel it's sting on his own home.
- 2. The **Death** of his son, now the third one to die. He would probably never see his son again. We don't hear David say " I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me," as he had said when his baby son died.
- 3. The **Disobedience** of Joab. Joab was specifically instructed not to harm Absalom, yet, he disobeys the king's command and causes the sweetness of victory to turn to mourning (bitterness).

- **Where is David at this time?**

2 Samuel 17:24 – 18:24(NKJV)

- 17:24 Then David went to Mahanaim. It was here that Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the people of Ammon (Ammon was often an enemy), Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo Debar (originally cared for Mephibosheth), and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim (a Godly rich man) brought beds, utensils and food, for David and the people who *were* with him.
- 18:4 So the king stood beside the gate, as the army went out to battle.
- 18:24 Now David was sitting between the two gates when the watchman saw a man running to give news of the victory.
- It was from here David directed the battle in which Absalom was slain and where the chamber over the gate was that he went to and wept.

Joab's rebuke – a blow to the heart

- Joab was until now faithful to David. He had been instrumental in the death of Uriah but now he could not spare a traitor to the crown and the king.
- ⁵ Joab went into the house to the king and said, "Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines. ⁶ You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you. I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead.
Now go out and encourage your men. I swear by the LORD that if you don't go out, not a man will be left with you by nightfall. This will be worse for you than all the calamities that have come upon you from your youth till now."

- **Joab** was impatient with all this and delivered a very stern rebuke to the king. Joab no doubt felt he did what had to be done by slaying Absalom to protect the King.
- Joab gives his view point of David's actions that David seems more interested in his enemies than in his faithful followers, and that he was ungrateful to those who had saved his life. He feels David would rather have heard that his entire army was slaughtered and that his son Absalom was alive instead.
- Joab sternly warned David that if he did go out and immediately show an interest in encouraging his people, they would forsake him by nightfall and that would be worse than anything that had happened to him thus far.

- **2 Samuel 19:8-10 (NIV) (The Kings response)**

⁸ So the king got up and took his seat in the gateway. When the men were told, "The king is sitting in the gateway," they all came before him. Meanwhile, the Israelites had fled to their homes.

⁹ Throughout the tribes of Israel, the people were all arguing with each other, saying, "The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies; he is the one who rescued us from the hand of the Philistines. But now he has fled the country because of Absalom;

¹⁰ and Absalom, whom we anointed to rule over us, has died in battle. So why do you say nothing about bringing the king back?"

- When rebuked by Joab, David complied by taking his position by the gate of the city. Word went out of the King seated by the gate and many came before him.
- In the meantime confusion reigned in the land of Israel. All the people were quarreling among themselves. King David, who had saved them from... the Philistines, was in exile, they reasoned, and Absalom, their self-appointed ruler, was dead. A movement thus began to restore David to his throne. "Why do you say nothing about bringing back the king?" is an appropriate question for a sleeping church today. Believer's Bible Commentary
- Pilate asked, "What shall I do with Jesus?"
- At the cross it was said of Jesus, He saved others, Himself he could not save.

- **2 Samuel 19:11-15 (NIV)**

¹¹ King David sent this message to Zadok and Abiathar, the priests: "Ask the elders of Judah, 'Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his palace, since what is being said throughout Israel has reached the king at his quarters?'

¹² You are my brothers, my own flesh and blood. So why should you be the last to bring back the king?'

¹³ And say to Amasa, 'Are you not my own flesh and blood? May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if from now on you are not the commander of my army in place of Joab.'"

¹⁴ He won over the hearts of all the men of Judah as though they were one man. They sent word to the king, "Return, you and all your men."

¹⁵ Then the king returned and went as far as the Jordan. Now the men of Judah had come to Gilgal to go out and meet the king and bring him across the Jordan.

- "Ask the elders of Judah, 'Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his palace, since what is being said throughout Israel has reached the king at his quarters?'
You are my brothers, my own flesh and blood. So why should you be the last to bring back the king?'
- There were no phones or rapid methods of communication only couriers to run with the message so there would have been some time passing between communications. Word had reached David of Judah's lack of asking the King to return prompting David to send word asking why they would be the last to receive him back as there king. Judah was again looking for man to rule in stead of God. Otherwise they would not have followed Absalom.

- [19:11-15](#) When David heard that the ten tribes of Israel were talking about restoring him to the throne, he sent two priests to the elders of Judah, asking why they, his blood relatives, were the last to bring him back as king. Judah had supported Absalom heavily in the rebellion, and doubtless some resentment or fear lingered.
- David decided to remove Joab as commander in chief (probably because Joab had killed Absalom) and to appoint Amasa to take his place. Amasa, a nephew of David, had only recently been Absalom's general. (2 Samuel 17:25 And Absalom made Amasa captain of the army instead of Joab.) To outsiders it must have looked like David punished loyalty and rewarded rebellion, a government policy unlikely to produce political stability. But these moves won the hearts of all the men of Judah over to David's side, and they sent a unanimous "welcome home" message to him. Believer's Bible Commentary

why should you be the last to bring back the king?

- The nation of Israel rejected the Messiah, The Lord Jesus Christ, crucified him and is still in rejection today. 'We will not have this *man* to reign over us.'
- He came to his own and they received him not. (John 1:10)
- As many as receive him he gives the right to be children of God, to those who believe on his name, (John 1:11)
- I go to prepare a place for you, ... I will come again and receive you to myself that where I am , there you may be also. (John 14:1-4)
- John closes Revelation with, He who testifies these things says, "Surely I come quickly."

Amen, Even so, come Lord Jesus! Rev 22:20)