

Study Sheet for 2 Samuel 19

Recommended Resource: *2 Samuel: Out of Every Adversity* by Ralph Davis

Background: Absalom, the treasonous son of David, is now dead, but no one dares to celebrate because the king is overwhelmed with sorrow. Instead of rejoicing in the death of his rival, David is mourning the death of his son. While David's grief is understandable from a father's perspective, his despondency angers Joab and demoralizes David's supporters. In this chapter, we see ongoing tensions between Joab and Abishai's demands for justice and David's desire to show kindness. Now that David has returned to Jerusalem, how will he treat his enemies and reunify the kingdom?

Observation-Based Questions on 2 Samuel 19:

- After the death of Absalom, why were the people not able to rejoice in the victory (1-4)?
- Why does Joab confront David (5-7)?
- How does David respond to Joab's confrontation (8)?
- Once Absalom was out of the way, what were the people of Israel concerned about (9-10)?
- What does David do to Amasa who served as the commander of Absalom's army (11-15)?
- What does Shimei do when David crosses the Jordan (16-20)?
- What is Abishai's opinion about what should happen to Shimei (21)?
- Instead of listening to Abishai, what does David do to Shimei (22-23)?
- What do we learn about Mephiboseth at this point (24-30; cf. 2 Samuel 16:1-4)?
- How had Barzillai the Gileadite helped David in the past (32; cf. 2 Samuel 17:27-29)?
- Why does Barzillai refuse to go with David to Jerusalem (34ff)?
- How does Barzillai help his servant, Chimham (37)?
- After the king's crossing of the Jordan, what criticism do the men of Israel bring against the men of Judah (41-43)? How is this a harbinger of what is to come (See the beginning of the next chapter)?