

Study Sheet for 2 Samuel 18

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

Background: In God's good providence, He has begun to thwart Absalom's rebellion against David. He has answered David's prayer to turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness, and now David is ready to go on the offensive and attack. In this chapter, we see how Absalom is caught and killed, leaving behind a grieving father and a frustrated Joab.

Observation-Based Questions on 2 Samuel 18:

- What men does David choose to be his military commanders (v. 2)?
- Why do the commanders advise David against going to battle with them (v. 3-4)?
- How does David want these men to treat Absalom if they are able to apprehend him (v. 5)?
- How is Absalom providentially caught (vv. 9-10)?
- Why does the man who finds Absalom in this vulnerable position not kill him (v. 12)?
- What does Joab do when he finds out about Absalom caught in the tree (v. 14ff)?
- What is indicated by the way Absalom is buried (vv.16-18)? (You may need to consult a Study Bible or commentary. Note well verse 17: "raised over him a very great heap of stones.")
- Note the contrast between what Absalom became in death (vv. 16-17) from what he aspired to be in life (v. 18).
- Why does Joab seek to dissuade Ahimaaz from sharing the news with King David (vv.19-20)?
- Whom does Joab send to carry the news to David (v. 21)?
- When David sees Ahimaaz approaching, what does he conclude about the news and why (v.27)?
- Why might Ahimaaz conceal his knowledge of Absalom's death (vv. 28-30)?
- What is David's response to the news of Absalom's death (vv. 31-33)? What does this grief reveal about David? Why might this expression have been demoralizing for David's loyal followers?