

# 2 Samuel 15 & 16

## David: The Rejected King

### I. INTRO

- A.  Book of 2 Samuel Summary: A Complete Animated Overview
  - 1. Watch the video as a sort of update
- B. I hope that helped catch you up to speed if you (1) forgot, or (2) are new to Revolve. We are picking up in 2 Samuel 15 today in the midst of the Absalom narrative → when David is essentially dethroned by his own son
- C. I want you to remember that these pages ultimately point to Jesus
- D. This is called typology, which is where Old Testament people, events, or institutions prefigure and foreshadow greater realities in the New Testament
  - 1. Ex: Exodus // Adam
- E. What's my goal as we read these OT books
  - 1. I want you to realize the Bible is all about Jesus.
  - 2. These "random" stories serve a purpose in the big picture of the Bible.
  - 3. Bible characters are flawed // "No good guys" but Jesus
  - 4. David is both a picture (type) of the coming King and a reminder of why we needed a better King than David could ever be.
- F. **Main idea: God's true king often looks defeated before he is revealed as victorious.**

### II. 2 Samuel 15

- A. *[1] After this Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. [2] And Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way of the gate. And when any man had a dispute to come before the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And when he said, "Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel," [3] Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but there is no man designated by the king to hear you." [4] Then Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice." [5] And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. [6] Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.*
  - 1. Summarize David's rise to power // compare with Absalom
  - 2. Absalom's rise to power is from the outside in (look the part, assume the part). David's is from the inside out (character, patience, trust in Lord)
  - 3. Beware of people who look the part but lack the heart / character
    - a) Saul was tall... Absalom was handsome... Pharisees looked holy..
  - 4. Absalom went above and beyond to slowly look the part
    - a) The author lists nine things he did as he prepared his coup
  - 5. Absalom is manipulating his way into the kingdom

- a) He wins their hearts through dissatisfaction and flattery
    - (1) Ex: Picture of a pastoral coup
  - b) Jesus is the opposite of Absalom (a shadow type) in his rise to power; he wins hearts through truth and sacrifice
- B. *[7] And at the end of four years Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the LORD, in Hebron. [8] For your servant vowed a vow while I lived at Geshur in Aram, saying, 'If the LORD will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will offer worship to the LORD.'" [9] The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron. [10] But Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, 'Absalom is king at Hebron!'" [11] With Absalom went two hundred men from Jerusalem who were invited guests, and they went in their innocence and knew nothing. [12] And while Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing.*
  - 1. Four years later... He wants to go to Hebron... (remember that)
  - 2. He hides behind false piety (as so many do) → How much damage has been done by a rebellion wrapped in spiritual language // Ex: God told me to do this or that
  - 3. Do not be deceived: religious momentum does not equal God's movement; Just b/c something looks spiritual and is flashy doesn't mean it's from the Lord
  - 4. Back to Hebron = David's OG capital from when he was first crowned king by Judah after Saul's death, but before he took Jerusalem
    - a) This is a significant geographical statement
    - b) As his father was anointed at Hebron, Absalom plans to do same
  - 5. Ahithophel = possibly Bathsheba's grandfather
    - a) He is the bitter, yet trusted, advisor to David
    - b) Over the years he has seemed to sympathize with Absalom
  - 6. We see these characters, regardless, playing out as types, foreshadows of Christ's narrative
    - a) David – the true king – will be betrayed by Ahithophel, a trusted member of his inner circle, just as Jesus — the true king — is betrayed by Judas, a trusted member of his inner circle
    - b) Absalom is even representative of rebellious Israel, looking the part of spiritual vitality and health like the Pharisees, while his heart is far from God and the monarchy
- C. *[13] And a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom." [14] Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword." [15] And the king's servants said to the king, "Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king*

*decides.” [16] So the king went out, and all his household after him. And the king left ten concubines to keep the house. [17] And the king went out, and all the people after him. And they halted at the last house.*

1. David prioritizes the city’s protection from war
2. The true king, David, leaves to protect the people. Similarly, Jesus, the true king of kings, refuses violent revolution to place himself upon his throne
3. Let’s reflect on what would be going through David’s heart...
  - a) Does he deserve this? Yes, and he knew his sin would catch up
  - b) Does this break his heart? Yes
  - c) Does he fight against it? No. He allows it to play out
4. David is a wounded king (self-inflicted and by his enemies), but he is kingly nonetheless
5. On the way, some of his friends and comrades try to come with him. Some he allows, some he sends back in to be a sort of spy

*D. [For time let’s jump to... 23] And all the land wept aloud as all the people passed by, and the king crossed the brook Kidron, and all the people passed on toward the wilderness. // [30] But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went. [31] And it was told David, “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.” And David said, “O LORD, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.”*

1. When David leaves Jerusalem, he crosses the Kidron Valley and goes up the Mount of Olives, weeping, barefoot, humiliated, rejected by his own people. This is a path of rejection, sorrow, and apparent defeat.
  - a) But remember... biblical geography is important
2. Now fast forward to the New Testament. John 18 tells us that Jesus also crossed the Kidron Valley. And where does He go?
  - a) To a garden on the Mount of Olives — Gethsemane.
3. Think about this.
  - a) David leaves Jerusalem because his own people have rebelled against him.
  - b) Jesus, rebelled against since Genesis 3, enters this same area knowing His own people — and even one of His closest friends — are about to betray Him.
  - c) David crosses Kidron on the way to exile.
  - d) Jesus crosses Kidron on the way to the cross.
  - e) David leaves Jerusalem to save the city from destruction.
  - f) Jesus walks toward Jerusalem to save His people from sin and eternal destruction.
  - g) David looks like a defeated king.
  - h) Jesus will look like a defeated king.
  - i) But neither moment is actually defeat.
  - j) It’s God working through suffering to accomplish victory.

4. And this is the pattern of God's kingdom: death before resurrection.
  - a) David loses his throne before he gets it back.
  - b) Jesus goes to the cross before He is crowned King of Kings.
5. And if you follow Jesus, you shouldn't be surprised when your life sometimes follows that same pattern.
  - a) Sometimes obedience will feel like loss.
  - b) Sometimes faithfulness will look like defeat.
  - c) Sometimes doing the right thing will cost you something.
6. The cross looked like failure too, but it was actually the moment God was winning.
7. So when you walk through suffering, you are not walking a road Jesus doesn't understand. You are walking a road He walked first.
8. And in God's kingdom, suffering is never the end of the story because it's followed by resurrection

### III. 2 Samuel 16

A. *[5] When King David came to Bahurim, there came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera, and as he came he cursed continually. [6] And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David, and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. [7] And Shimei said as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man! [8] The LORD has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the LORD has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. See, your evil is on you, for you are a man of blood."*

*[9] Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head." [10] But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD has said to him, 'Curse David,' who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" [11] And David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my own son seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjaminite! Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. [12] It may be that the LORD will look on the wrong done to me, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing today." [13] So David and his men went on the road, while Shimei went along on the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went and threw stones at him and flung dust. [14] And the king, and all the people who were with him, arrived weary at the Jordan. And there he refreshed himself.*

1. This is like the via dolorosa, the way of suffering for David
2. As he marches along, Shimei, a tribal companion to former king Saul, curses him
3. David receives the insults and curses willingly, knowing that his sin has brought him to this point → reaping his own consequences
4. But Jesus, so many years later, would walk his own way of suffering. But, unlike David, he would be innocent // An Isaiah 53 moment

- a) He too would be receive insults, curses, rocks, spit, and refuse
- b) He too would be mocked
- c) As David didn't defend himself, Jesus would not defend himself
- d) He would absorb insult and injure
- e) Ultimately, Christ would absorb all punishment

B. *[15] Now Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him. [16] And when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" [17] And Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?" [18] And Hushai said to Absalom, "No, for whom the LORD and this people and all the men of Israel have chosen, his I will be, and with him I will remain. [19] And again, whom should I serve? Should it not be his son? As I have served your father, so I will serve you."*

*[20] Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your counsel. What shall we do?"*

*[21] Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house, and all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench to your father, and the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened."*

*[22] So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof. And Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. [23] Now in those days the counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel esteemed, both by David and by Absalom.*

1. Here Absalom functions as a shadow or anti-type
  - a) Absalom has his "triumphant entry" while the true king is "In the grave waiting for resurrection."
  - b) We see what kind of king Absalom will be → just like the Canaanites, utilizing a Canaanite practice to make a claim for the throne
2. Ahithophel, the Judas character, whose word is like that of God, offers pagan counsel

#### IV. Conclusion

A. In this narrative, we see three "kings":

1. **Absalom** — the self-exalting, manipulative, and rebellious son. He represents the kingdom of human ambition and rebellion against God.
  - a) He establishes his kingdom the way the world would
  - b) We are all tempted to build Absalom-style lives.
  - c) We want the crown without the cross.
2. **David** — the true king, faithful yet suffering, who endures betrayal and loss while protecting his people.
  - a) He is a type of Christ, pointing forward to the perfect King who would come, even though he is not innocent in this story and is actually reaping the consequences of his own sin
  - b) Note: God's plans for David's dynasty (ultimately culminating in Jesus) are not hindered by David's sin. That's GRACE

3. **Jesus:** the King of all kings, innocent yet suffering, betrayed by those closest to Him, and obedient to the Father's will.
  - a) Jesus is the true and better David, the suffering king who secures a kingdom THROUGH suffering
- B. This story shows two ways to chase a kingdom, which ultimately points to Jesus
  1. Absalom takes the fast path — image, influence, popularity, quick power.
  2. But God's kingdom doesn't usually work that way.
  3. With David — and ultimately with Jesus — the pattern is clear:
    - a) Suffering, then vindication, then glory.
  4. David loses his throne before he gets it back.
  5. Jesus goes to the cross before He is crowned King.
    - a) And if you follow Jesus, this will be part of your story too.
  6. There will be seasons where faithfulness feels like loss.
    - a) Where obedience costs you.
    - b) Where doing the right thing doesn't result in tangible benefit
  7. But the cross looked like defeat too. And it was actually God winning.
  8. So don't chase shortcut victories.
    - a) Don't trade character for success.
    - b) Don't trade faithfulness for approval.
  9. Follow the true King.
  10. Jesus laid down His life to save you.
  11. And one day, the rejected King will return in glory.
  12. So stay faithful. Trust Him in suffering.
  13. Because in God's kingdom, resurrection always comes after the cross.
  14. *James 1:2–4 [2] Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, [3] for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. [4] And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (ESV)*