

Absalom's Conspiracy

2 Samuel 15:1 – 16:19

Psalms 3 and 41

by Don Falkos

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Absalom ingratiated himself with everyone who came to Jerusalem seeking justice from King David. In so doing he stole the hearts of the people of Israel. Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout Israel to stir up a rebellion. Many joined him, and so Absalom's conspiracy gained momentum.

David learned what was happening. He immediately left Jerusalem with his family, his advisors, his bodyguard, and a large number of others. He ordered the High Priest to stay behind with the Ark of the Covenant and said, "I hope the Lord will bring me back some day." The people of Jerusalem wept as David left the city and walked up to the Mount of Olives.

David was told, "One of your advisors, Ahithophel, is among the conspirators." David prayed, "So many rise up against me. But you, O Lord, are a shield around me."

Hushai, another of David's advisors, met him on the Mount of Olives hoping to join him. But David said, "Go back to Jerusalem and offer your services to Absalom. Then you can counter Ahithophel's advice." So Hushai went to Absalom and became one of his advisors.

The servant of Mephibosheth came to David with supplies and said, "My master has stayed in Jerusalem. He thinks he is about to get back the kingdom of his grandfather Saul."

"In that case," said David, "I now give to you everything that belonged to Mephibosheth."

Down the road, a man named Shimei, from the same clan as Saul, threw stones at David shouting, "The Lord is paying you back for stealing Saul's throne."

Abishai wanted to kill the man. But David said, "No! Leave him alone. Maybe the Lord will see my plight and bless me because of it."