

Character Study: David

Part 7 – David’s Difficult Days

II Samuel 13-22

What’s happening?

- One of David’s sons, Absalom, who had already been guilty of having his brother Amnon killed, won over the hearts of the Israelites and schemed to take the throne away from his father. (13:1-15:12)
- Once David heard that Absalom had a following and was preparing to overtake his throne, David fled with his servants. David sent Hushai back to spy on Absalom, enabling him to learn of Absalom’s exact plans. Absalom came to fight against David’s men, but David was ready and overtook the men of Absalom. (15:13-18:8)
- Nearing the end of the battle, Absalom was riding a mule and passed under a tree. He got tangled in some large branches and got his head stuck. As he was left hanging there, David’s men caught up with him and killed him. David mourned his son’s death. (18:9-33)
- Another man, Sheba, tried to gather a following and turn the people against David as well. David believed Sheba could do more harm than Absalom, but Sheba was stopped when a woman rallied her city’s people against him and had him killed. (20:1-22)
- After all the heartache David went through, including more battles with the Philistines, David gave a heartfelt song of praise to God for His protection and mercy. (22:1-51)

What’s God doing?

> God’s word stood true. David faced all of the consequences God had said would come to him because of his sin. Through it all, however, David saw that God still loved him and watched over him.

What’s to learn?

→ God sovereignly allows certain things to come into our lives. Some things may be a result of bad choices we have made; other things may come just as a means of molding and maturing us. Through it all, we can be confident that God is in control.

→ Even during these difficult days, David was able to praise God for His goodness. Do we recognize and acknowledge God’s compassion and love even during difficult times?