

Grief and Victory 2 Samuel 18:1 – 19:8

Grief and Victory Introduction

- Over time, Absalom grew bitter against his father and proud of his own abilities as a leader.
- Ultimately, he led an uprising against David.
- Absalom and his men took Jerusalem. David and his men were forced to flee.

- David and his men took refuge in the city of Mahanaim, east of the Jordan River.
- Absalom and his army pursued them.
- We will now look at the result of this battle.

Preparing for Battle 18:1-5

- Zeruiah was David's sister.
- Abishai the son of Zeruiah was David's nephew.
- Joab was the brother of Abishai, so another nephew.
- Ittai the Gittite was a Philistine, but evidently loyal to David.

- Deal gently ... with the young man
- David doesn't call Absalom his son, but "the young man."
- His words expose the conflict taking place inside of him.
- He was both a king and a father.
- He was fighting to protect his life and his throne, but fighting against his son.

The Battle 18:6-8

- The account of the battle is short.
- This reminds us that the story is really about the conflict between David and Absalom.
- The forest devoured more people The roughness and unfamiliarity of the terrain were more lethal than the fighting itself.

Absalom Gets Caught 18:9-15

- 2 Samuel 14:25-26 may be helpful here.
- Absalom Gets Caught 18:9-15
 - *Absalom ... entangled his hair greatly in the large boughs of a knotty tree that spread a great way, and there he hung ... and as for the beast, it went on farther, and that swiftly, as if his master had been still upon his back; but he, hanging in the air upon the boughs, was taken by his enemies.*
 - *Flavius Josephus, Jewish historian of the Roman Era.*

- Troy Polamalu?
 - NFL safety,
 - shampoo expert
 - Absalom lookalike.

 - *Joab had obeyed the king's command to eliminate Uriah because it was politically expedient to do so. Now he knew that only Absalom's death would end the rebellion.*
 - *Nupanga Weanzana, Dean of Bangui Evangelical School of Theology (B.E.S.T.)*

- Joab is the one who kills Absalom.
- He ignored the king's instructions in the interest of ending the battle as quickly and decisively as possible.

The Battle Ends 18:16-18

- I have no son Three sons were actually born to Absalom (see 14:27), but they apparently all died by this point.
- Two of David's sons, Amnon and Absalom, died violent deaths in the ongoing consequences of his sin.

Sending Messengers 18:19-23

- Ahimaaz son of Zadok was of the priestly family who remained loyal to David.
- He has been running messages during this rebellion and no doubt knew David well.
- The Cushite was a soldier from the area south of Egypt, in today's Sudan or Ethiopia,

The Message Arrives 18:24-30

- The messengers went by different routes, so Ahimaaz was able to leave second but arrive first.
- Still, he was unable to express to David that Absalom was killed in the fighting.

David's Grief 18:31-33

- The Cushite was tactful in his expression, but managed to tell David what Ahimaaz was unable to tell.
- Despite the victory, David was heartbroken.
 - *David had casually ordered the death of Uriah, but now he had to endure the deep grief that only those who have suffered the death of a loved one can understand. David's emotions as a father outweighed his emotions as a king ... Rather than celebrating the victory of his army, David was plunged into deepest mourning.*
 - *Nupanga Weanzana, Dean of Bangui Evangelical School of Theology (B.E.S.T.)*

Joab's Sensible Criticism 19:1-8

- Joab lacked scruples, but he understood the sentiments of the people better than David.
- Overall, he was more self-serving, but he was a loyal military leader and political advisor.
- He probably saved the kingdom from further rebellion.

Examining David's Grief

- God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.
 - Ezekiel 18:23, 33:11
- Jesus weeping over Jerusalem in Luke 19:41.
 - *As a rebel, Absalom is a type of us. We have rebelled against God and His authority, and yet He still loves us ... David wished he could have died in Absalom's place. ... God loves us so much that [Christ, who is fully God] did die in our place. ... In the cry of David we hear the cry of God for His lost children.*
 - *Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)*

Aspects of Christ's Atonement

- We deserve to die as the consequence of our sin.
- We deserve God's anger against sin.
- Our sin separates us from God.
- Our sin holds us in bondage. We are trapped.

- We deserve to die as the consequence of our sin.
 - Christ's death is a sacrifice. See Hebrews 9:26-28.

- We deserve God's anger against sin.
 - Christ's death is a propitiation – it is a sacrifice that completely makes amends by appeasing the wrath of God.
 - See 1 John 4:10.

- Our sin separates us from God.
 - Christ's death brings reconciliation between God and us.
 - See 2 Corinthians 5:18-19.

- Our sin holds us in bondage. We are trapped by it.
 - Christ's death brings redemption. It pays the price for our freedom.

 - *Because we as sinners are in bondage to sin and Satan, we need someone to provide redemption and thereby "redeem" us out of that bondage ... We have been delivered from bondage to the guilt of sin and from bondage to its ruling power in our lives.*
 - Wayne Grudem, General Editor of the ESV Study Bible

 - Christ's death was like the payment of a ransom.
 - See Mark 10:45
 - Christ frees us from our bondage.
 - See Colossians 1:13-14

Grief and Victory Conclusions

- Unlike Absalom we have been spared the consequences of our own rebellion.
- Jesus Christ took our punishment for us.

- God the Father endured the grief of imposing suffering and death upon his Son.
- We enjoy the benefits of Christ's victory.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:53-58
 - Romans 8:37-39