

## Re-establishing the Kingdom – 2 Samuel 19:9-43

### Introduction:

“Heartache on heartache,” so the song goes. David knows all about it. First a son rapes his half-sister, then is killed by a brother in revenge. Next a son rebels and tries to usurp the kingdom from dad, and he too is killed. Where was the “happy ever after” he thought would come when God anointed him as king when still a teenager?

Of course there is the Bathsheba incident, when David let his passions overrule his better judgement. David would commit adultery, and then murder, and so much of his “happy ever after” started to unravel. Nathan the prophet forewarned David that this would happen, but David somehow hoped it would not.

Now that things had unraveled it was time to pick up the pieces and re-establish the kingdom. The people had lost their trust in David. What will he do to regain it? 2 Samuel 19 tells the story of how David put together some of the pieces to restore order and unity in the kingdom.

### David Returns to Jerusalem - 2 Samuel 19:9-15

1. In verses 9-10 we read about a conflict taking place within the tribes of Israel (the northern tribes). What are the opposing sides saying about the leadership of David? What stands in David’s favour? What stands against him?
2. While this debate is happening in the tribes of Israel, where does David direct his attention (v. 11)? Why here? What has David assumed?
3. What reasoning does David use to try and convince Judah to follow him as king (v. 12)?
4. Who does David appoint as commander of his army in verse 13? Why this appointment? How might Joab feel about this?

5. Does David's appeal work (v. 14)? What do the people of Judah say to David?
6. What is the scene described in verse 15?

### **David Responds to Shimei – 2 Samuel 19: 16-23**

7. Who was Shimei, and how did he respond when David had to flee Jerusalem (cf. 2 Samuel 16:5-8)? What is his response when he hears David is returning to Jerusalem to be king (v. 16)?
8. Who else came to meet David as he returned (v. 17)? Why were they there according to verse 18?
9. What is Shimei's confession according to verse 19? What is his response (v. 20)?
10. Abishai, one of David's commanders, once again wants to deal with Shimei. What does he want to do (v. 21)?
11. How does David respond to Abishai (v. 22)? What reasoning does David give for his decision?
12. What does David give to Shimei according to verse 23? How important is this?

### **Mephibosheth Welcomes the King – 2 Samuel 19:24-30**

13. Who else comes to meet David as he returned (v. 24)? Describe his appearance. What does it mean?
14. What does David ask of Mephibosheth (v. 25)?
15. What does Mephibosheth tell us about what happened when the king left Jerusalem (v. 26)? In verse 27 Mephibosheth says the servant has slandered him. What did the servant say about Mephibosheth (cf. 2 Samuel 16:1-4)?
16. What is the attitude of Mephibosheth in verse 28?

17. What decision does King David make about the lands that once belonged to King Saul (v. 29)? Does this seem fair?

18. What is Mephibosheth's response to the decision of the king (v. 30)?

### **David and Barzillai – 2 Samuel 19:31-40**

19. In 2 Samuel 17:27-28 we are introduced to Barzillai the Gileadite. There he very generously provides food and provisions for David, his family and followers. What else do we learn about Barzillai in verse 32?

20. What does David suggest in verse 33?

21. Barzillai gives his response to the king in verses 34-37. Does he want to go to Jerusalem (v. 34)? How does he describe "being old" (vs. 35)? What does he feel he will be to David in Jerusalem (v. 35)? What also draws him back to his home town (v. 37)?

22. Instead of following King David into Jerusalem, what does Barzillai suggest (v. 37)? (we understand Chimham to be a son of Barzillai)

23. How does David respond to this proposal (v. 38)? (In Jeremiah 41:17 we read of a place called Geruth Chimham. Could the grant of land be part of his provision?)

24. Note what it says in verse 40: Who brought David on his way back to Jerusalem?

### **Division in the Ranks – 2 Samuel 19:41-43**

25. What is the accusation the men of Israel make against the men of Judah (v. 41)?

26. What response do the men of Judah make (v. 42)?

27. In verse 43 the men of Israel present two more arguments why they should be favoured by the king. What are they?

28. Who wins this “shout fest” between the men of Judah and the men of Israel (v. 43)?

### **Conclusion:**

The battle may be over and the usurper killed, but that does not mean peace immediately returns to the land. Absalom had successfully divided the country so that he could get a following, and he put his greatest efforts in winning the hearts of the Israelites, the northern tribes. Absalom was so successful that the division is still very real even after the battle is over.

David does not seem to be aware of how deep the lines of division are. He does try to appease the Israelites by sparing Shimei, but it is not enough. And when the shout fest begins between the men of the north and those of the south, David is nowhere to be seen. If only David would step up and broker peace: but he does not. The chapter ends with an obvious split in the nation. Now what will happen?

Nonetheless, David does show great leadership as he deals with “enemies” like Shimei and Mephibosheth (who supposedly wrung his hands in glee at David’s disposition). David shows kindness, even forgiveness towards these men when many would have shown vengeance. Here is where we see the heart of God demonstrated in David.

David, a man who doesn’t get everything right, but one thing he does get right: he knows it is God who directs his life. And so, when it looks like there is no hope for David’s reign, God delivers and sets him on the throne once again, just as he promised he would. God is always faithful. This is the one constant in David’s life.