

2 Samuel 15

June 30, 2021

This chapter finds Absalom plotting rebellion against David. If David is a type of Christ, then Absalom must be a type of antichrist.

Mr. Kelly points out the significance of Absalom summoning Ahithophel to join him in Hebron. Besides acting as David's counselor, Ahithophel is regarded as a sort of prophet. "Now in those days the counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God," we are told in 2 Samuel 16:23. Note, however, the words "as if." Ahithophel is not a true prophet, as we will see in the next chapter.

The pattern Mr. Kelly notes is that many an ungodly ruler has a false spiritual counselor. An extreme example was Saul consulting the medium at En-dor in 1 Samuel. Other examples are Pharaoh and his magicians and Balak and Balaam.

The pattern will reach its climax when the antichrist appears as foretold in Revelation 13. The beast from the earth acts as a prophet or priest, compelling worship of the imperial first beast from the sea.

Absalom tells David he must travel to Hebron to fulfill a vow he made to the Lord. He performs sacrifices there (perhaps claiming that Hebron had a more ancient right than Jerusalem to be the spiritual center of Israel). And he brings a man known as a prophet to stand at his side. Thus his evil ambition is papered over with a veneer of religious observance. He would not be the last king to do so.

Notes

15:7 Most translations say forty years but some texts have four years, which seems more reasonable.

Questions for study and discussion:

1. What steps does Absalom take to build his popularity? Do politicians today do the same?
2. Is Absalom correct when he says David is not giving justice?
3. Is David right to flee Jerusalem so quickly? What might be his reason?

4. How is Ittai to be commended for his faith? What other scriptural figures does he remind us of?

5. As the Lord's anointed, David is surely entitled to bring the ark with him. Why doesn't he?

6. David crosses the Kidron brook toward the Mount of Olives. Who would follow in his footsteps 1000 years later? How are their immediate circumstances similar?

7. Do Zadok and Husai do right to stay in Jerusalem instead of following David into the wilderness?

8. Is David's prayer in verse 31 answered?