

2 Samuel 16

July 7, 2021

David's retreat from Jerusalem continues in this chapter. His path takes him from the city across the Mount of Olives and down the slopes to the fords of the Jordan River. It seems for now a route to disgrace and defeat.

But for the antitype of David 1000 years later the same path will be a triumphal procession. Our Lord approaches Jerusalem from Jericho near the Jordan (having healed a blind man and brought Zacchaeus salvation) and mounts up to Jerusalem with the people singing hosannas. What a contrast to the wailing of David's companions.

But the love of Jerusalem for Jesus will not endure. A week later we see him in anguish in Gethsemane, also on the western shoulder of the Mount of Olives where David wept as he marched barefooted.

On the far eastern descent of the mountain David comes to the village of Bahurin, where Ziba brings him refreshments. Jesus will find refreshment on the same slope as he stays with his friends Martha, Mary, and Lazarus at Bethany.

So the Mount of Olives is the royal portal of arrival and departure, retreat and triumph, for both David and the One Who will sit on David's eternal throne. In Acts 1 the disciples watch their master depart from there into heaven. We can imagine their misgivings until the promised Comforter arrives to strengthen them. We know that David will return to Jerusalem. We know that Christ will return to this earth. But where? Can there be any doubt? "On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east" (Zechariah 14:4).

Questions for study and discussion:

1. Ziba's food and donkeys are no doubt welcome to David. Is Ziba motivated solely by loyalty to the king?
2. Is there any truth in Shimei's attacks on David?
3. How is David's response to Shimei Christlike? What is the lesson for us?

4. Why does Hushai declare loyalty to Absalom?

5. Why does Ahithophel counsel Absalom to lie with David's concubines?