

2 Samuel 19

July 28, 2021

The threat to the kingdom is over. David will soon end his exile and ascend to his throne, literally and figuratively, as he goes up from the Jordan to Jerusalem. But on his way he confers favors: Shimei's life is undeservingly spared, Mephibosheth receives back half his land, and Barzillai's son is given an honored place in Jerusalem after his father courteously refuses it. We are reminded of Ephesians 4:8, "When he ascended on high, he led a host of captives and he gave gifts to men."

That verse in context refers to the Lord giving spiritual gifts to His bride the church after returning to glory. But He will not stop there. After the rapture He will award crowns to His followers according to their service for Him (2 Corinthians 5:10, 2 Timothy 4:8). Then in His millennial reign he will give us authority to judge as his co-heirs (Revelation 2:26-27).

In light of all He has in store for us, may we not be like the people of Judah, the last to look for His return (v. 11).

Questions for study and discussion:

1. Is Joab correct to rebuke David? Does David accept the correction? Is there a lesson for us?
2. See verse 8. How is this different from the last time David sat in the gate of Manahaim?
3. How do we see in this chapter the beginnings of the split between Israel and Judah?
4. Why are Shimei and Ziba so eager to meet David?

