



Lesson 97

David's Return to Jerusalem

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 2 Samuel 19:9-43 • Setting: approx. 980 B.C. • Main Characters: God, David, Ahimaaz, Cush, and Joab • Plot: David's return to Jerusalem is preceded by tribal bickering and | <p>succeeded by shameful groveling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): " _____ " • Climax: <i>"But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord's anointed?" (19:21)</i> |
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Review (2 Sam. 18:18 – 19:8)

1. After receiving news of Absalom's death, David grieved in such a way that his men were demoralized, and Joab was embarrassed. Joab sternly rebuked (and possibly _____) David for his immoderate weeping; David consequently relented and celebrated his army's victory.

Power and Politics

2. (19:9-10) After the dust of battle began to settle, the tribes of Israel argued about whether David should continue as king. The debate centered around David's previous successes contrasted by the recent disaster, i.e., he was successful against the Philistines, but he fled from _____.
3. (19:11-15) David sent messages by the hand of Abiathar and Zadok the priests:
 - (a) To the elders of Jerusalem: as leaders of his own tribe, the men of _____ should have been the first to bring their own kinsman back on the throne.
 - (b) To Amasa, whom Absalom had appointed commander of the army: David would leave him in his position, and remove Joab, as a political move to appease _____ fan base (and which, consequently, angered Joab).

Pardons and Apologies

4. (19:16-30) As David returned, some of his more notable enemies wasted no time in zealously apologizing to their king for their disloyalty.
 - (a) _____ was especially pitiful in his apology. Fortunately for him, David was in a good mood and his execution was stayed (until after David's death, that is).
 - (b) Mephibosheth also met David *en route* to Jerusalem because Ziba, his servant, had falsely accused him of disloyalty. David was unable to decide who was telling the truth, so he made Ziba and Mephibosheth split the estate of the late King Saul. Mephibosheth showed his _____ by insisting that Ziba have it all. (v 30)

(c) (19:31-40) On a happier note, Barzillai, one of David's friends and benefactors, blessed David and asked his permission to return home to die in his old age. David agreed and in return for Barzillai's friendship and generosity, he took _____ (probably Barzillai's son) into his inner circle of courtiers. It's possible that David gave Chimham part of his family estate in Bethlehem. (cf Jer. 41:17)

5. (19:41-43) Meanwhile, the tribal leaders still bickered amongst themselves.
- (a) The leaders of Israel accused the men of Judah of " _____ " their king away and were quick to point out that it was the elders of Israel, not Judah, who began the talks of restoring David.
 - (b) The men of Judah responded by denying any selfishness or any desire for enrichment in their escorting King David to Jerusalem. In this passage we see the seeds of tribal strife being planted – seeds which will sprout and bloom during the reign of David's _____.

Application

6. Power and wealth make it hard for a man to discern who is his sincere friend and who is a two-faced enemy.

Prov 19:4 Wealth maketh many _____; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

7. As Shimei cursed King David and later begged for mercy, many who curse the King of kings today will one day beg for mercy at his feet. For now, they enjoy his common grace, but the time will come when he will say unto them, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting _____, prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matt. 25:41)

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): return • 1. threatened • 2. Absalom • 3. a) Judah; b) Absalom's • 4. a) Shimei; b) integrity; c) Chimham • 5. a) stealing; b) grandson • Prov. 19:4 "friends" • 7. fire

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.