

# Life of David Outline

David's Rise and King Saul's Demise	1 Sam. 16 - 2 Sam. 1
David's Reign as King Over Israel	2 Samuel 2-20
David's Accession to King	2 Samuel 2-5
David's Triumphal Reign	2 Samuel 6-10
David's Troubled Reign	2 Samuel 11-20
Epilogue	2 Sam. 21 - 1 Kings 2

## Revelation 22:16

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the **root** and the **descendant** of David, the bright morning star.”

2 Samuel 7:16

“Your house and your kingdom shall endure before  
Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”

## Theme Statement

Even in the most dire circumstances (in this case the powerful king humiliated and reduced to a lowly fugitive), our Sovereign Lord God strengthens His people, accomplishes His purposes and keeps His redemptive covenant.

## Preparing for War

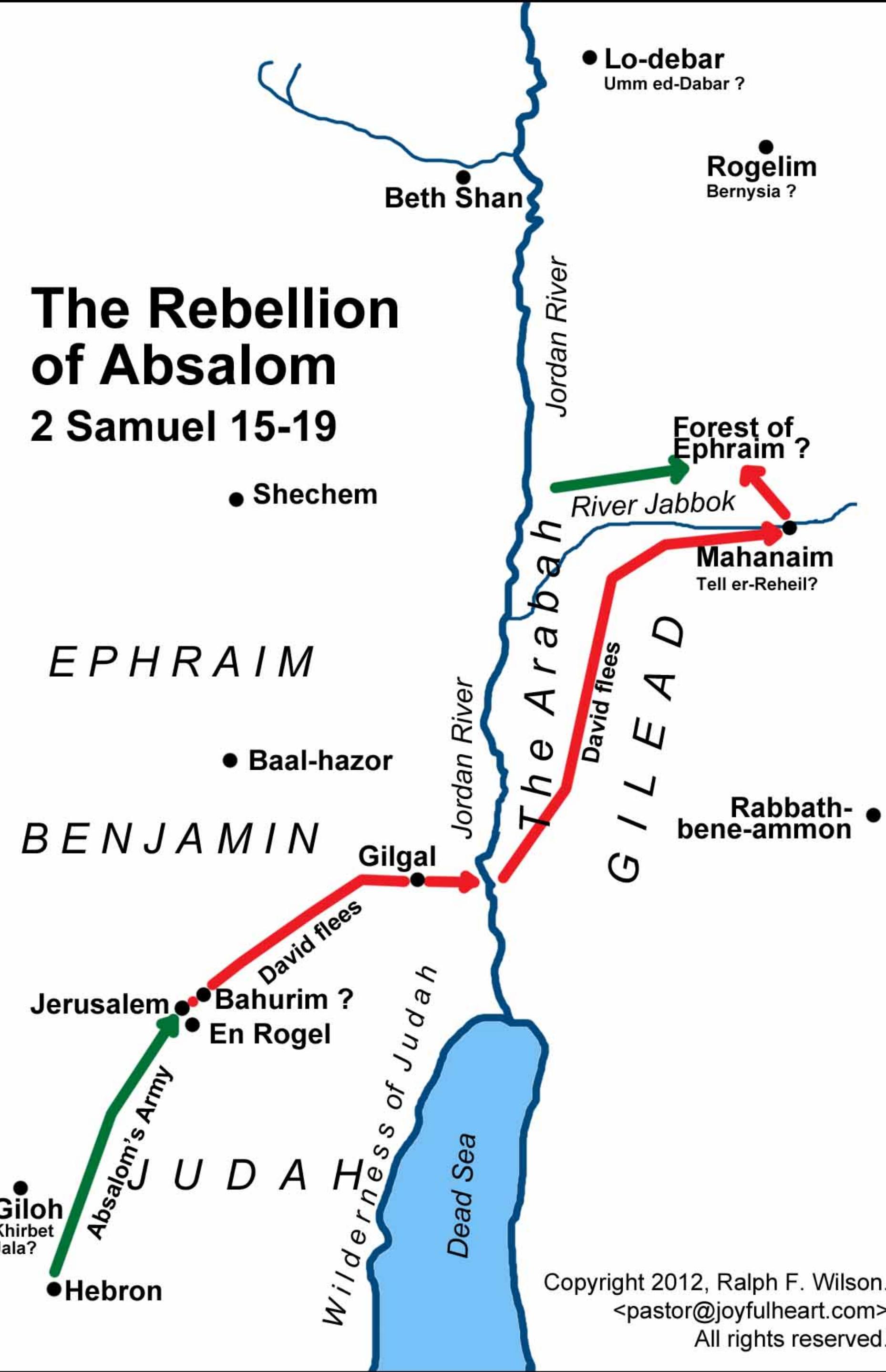
### 2 Samuel 18:1-5

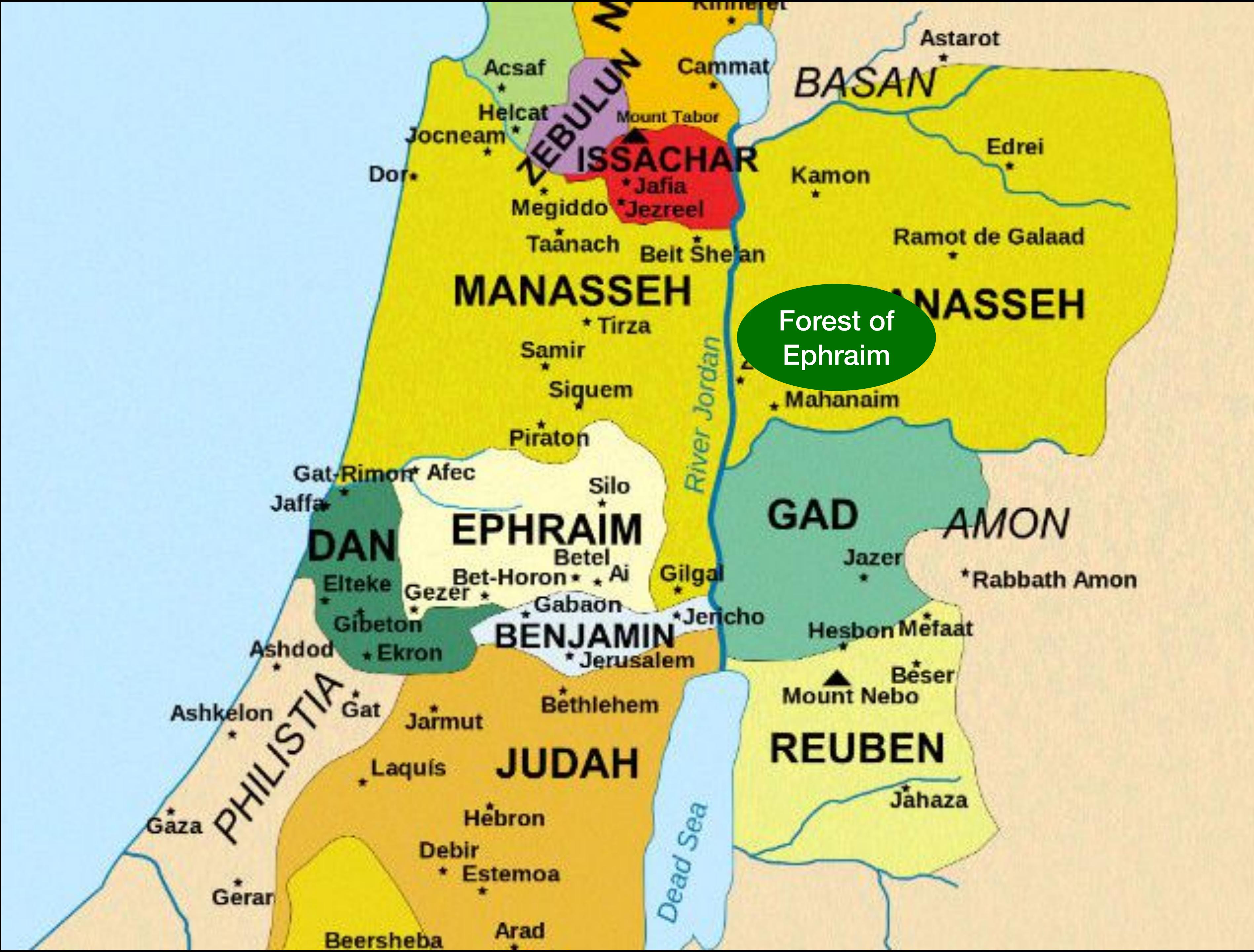
1. Absalom had rejected Ahithophel's advice of a surprise attack on David by a relatively small army of 12,000 men
2. Absalom opted for Hushai's advice of a massive army led by Amasa and Absalom himself
3. David assessed the strength of his army and then designated leadership down to the small group of 100 men
4. David offered to go out with his troops in battle but was prohibited because of his value to their cause - v. 2b-4
5. David's final command - Preserve the life of the young man Absalom

# Defeating the Enemy

## 2 Samuel 18:6-16

1. The winning strategy: Fight in the forest, set up multiple battle fronts and spread out the battle field







“The conflict took place a few miles northwest of Mahanaim “in the forest of Ephraim.” By choosing a forest as the battlefield, David hoped to minimize the value of Absalom’s numerical advantage. The strategy paid off handsomely. Under the capable leadership of Joab, Abishai and Ittai, David’s men fought well in the forest.



Robert D. Bergen

One reason for David’s success was that his three commanders fragmented the opposition. By deploying their separate units in different areas, they spread Absalom’s troops ‘over the whole countryside’ (v. 8), thus preventing them from making a united stand. David’s forces also used the terrain to maximum advantage.”

## Defeating the Enemy

### 2 Samuel 18:6-16

1. The winning strategy: Fight in the forest, set up multiple battle fronts and spread out the battle field
2. Absalom is caught up hanging in a tree by his head and his mule went on without him

Deuteronomy 21:22–23

“If a man has committed a sin worthy of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (**for he who is hanged is accursed of God**), so that you do not defile your land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance.

“Absalom had rebelled against divine law by rebelling against his father (Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16) and sleeping with members of David’s harem (Lev. 20:11). Absalom had the massive armies of Israel fighting to protect him, and he was personally equipped with a fast means of escape not afforded other soldiers—a mule.

Nevertheless, in spite of these seemingly insurmountable advantages, Absalom could not escape God’s judgment...The fearful judgment of the Torah had proven credible: the Lord had upheld His law.”



Robert D. Bergen

“Additionally, the flight of the mule from beneath the hanging Absalom may also make a point. The mule was the royal steed and an emblem of the house of David. With one stroke of divine judgment, Absalom utterly lost control of the reins of the kingdom that he had so cunningly usurped.”



Richard D. Phillips

## Defeating the Enemy

### 2 Samuel 18:6-16

1. The winning strategy: Fight in the forest, set up multiple battle fronts and spread out the battle field
2. Absalom is caught up hanging in a tree by his head and his mule went on without him
3. Although one man refused to disobey King David's command, Joab and his men killed Absalom
4. Then Joab blew the trumpet signifying the battle was over

## Burying the Memory

### 2 Samuel 18:17-18

1. Joab and his men threw Absalom's body into a deep pit in the middle of the forest covered by a "very great heap of stones"
2. Absalom had already built Absalom's Monument to preserve his name



# Reporting Back to the Commander

## 2 Samuel 18:19-32

1. Ahimaaz requested to be the bearer of good news to King David but was denied by Joab
2. Joab commanded a Cushite, a foreigner, to bear the controversial news to King David
3. Ahimaaz was insistent on being a bearer of good news to David after the Cushite and Joab relented
4. Ahimaaz outran the Cushite and brought the good news of the battle won but denied knowing anything about Absalom
5. The Cushite delivered both the good news and the bad news to King David

# Assessing the Cost

## 2 Samuel 18:33

1. David wept at the cost of the death of his son Absalom
2. To be continued - Chapter 19

# Application

## Application

1. We, too, are in a battle, “not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God...” - Ephesians 6:10-17

Having loins girded with truth  
Having put on the breastplate of righteousness  
Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace  
Taking up the shield of faith...to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one  
Take the helmet of salvation  
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God

## Application

2. King David's compassion for his enemies pictures the compassion our God has for the lost and for His people - Matthew 9:36; Jonah 4:11; Micah 7:19

Matthew 9:36 - Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

## Application

3. Absalom hanged on a tree and received the curse of God for his unrepentant heart and rejection of the Lord God. For all men and women, there are only two options - repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who became a curse for repentant sinners by becoming a curse for us by hanging on a tree OR personally pay the penalty of God's eternal curse for sin - Galatians 3:13.

Galatians 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”—

## Application

4. We can be confident that our God is Sovereign in all of human history and will always keep his covenants and promises - 2 Samuel 17:14; Revelation 22:13

2 Samuel 17:14 - Then Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel.” **For the LORD had ordained to thwart the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the Lord might bring calamity on Absalom.**

Revelation 22:13 - “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

“The point of this expression, the Alpha and Omega, is that God controls the beginning; He controls the end and everything in the middle. In other words, God is sovereign over all of human history. He existed before history began and He will bring it to its end and He deals with all of the details in between. He is the Lord of history. He is the Alpha and Omega. He was there at the beginning; He'll be there at the end; And He's over every single detail, every event of human history and every life in between. He is the Alpha and Omega.”



Tom Pennington  
Pastor-Teacher

