

## A Study of 2 Samuel 19

### I. Outline.

1. Joab rebukes David for an excessive grieving over Absalom and failing to express appreciation to the troops; and David responds positively (2 Sam 19.1-8).
2. Pro-David forces among the northern tribes argue that they should move quickly to bring David back into power in Jerusalem (2 Sam 19.9-10).
3. There is still some resistance to David's return from his own tribe; he sends the priests to appeal for David's return as they stress his kinship with them and bring David's offer to make Amasa commander. The elders of Judah were persuaded (2 Sam 19.11-15).
4. As David crosses the Jordan he is met by various people (2 Sam 19.16-23).
5. Mephibosheth, not having groomed himself since David left Jerusalem, seeks to explain his situation—claiming to have been slandered by Ziba. David divides the property between the two (2 Sam 19.24-30).
6. Barzillai, who had greatly aided David in Mahanaim, was offered a place with David in Jerusalem, but he prefers his own home, suggesting instead Chimham for David to bless (2 Sam 19.31-40).
7. There still exists tension between Judah and the rest of the tribes (2 Sam 19.41-43).

### II. Summary.

In this chapter we find that what Absalom stirred up among the people of Judah has outlasted his own death and continues on. Absalom lived in and did most of his sowing of discord for the eventual usurpation of the throne in Judah. Of course, some of the cause of this tension is David's own fault for his sinful behavior and attempt to cover it up. David will remain king of all of Israel, but the unity of God's people is not at all what it needs to be or should be. So some negotiation is called for and David is blessed to have the priests on his side whom he can send to represent him before the elders of Judah. And so this chapter pictures for us the return across the Jordan River and those whom he met and the beginnings of setting things back in order. The sad state of the union is set forth by the last verse of the chapter: 2 Samuel 19:43 ***And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, We have ten parts in the king, and we have also more right in David than ye: why then did ye despise us, that our advice should not be first had in bringing back our king? And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.***

### III. Chronology/Lists/Links.

**BIBLE PERIOD:** The Period of the United Kingdom.

If you are not familiar with the **15 Bible Periods**, please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/wl79hp7>

You can read an excellent article on Chronology from Wayne Jackson here:

<https://tinyurl.com/wylvljh>

#### LISTS:

##### THREE TRANSACTIONS WITH ZIBA:

01. David commanded that Ziba and his sons have complete charge of all Saul's land and to bring Mephibosheth part of the profits (2 Sam 9).

02. David gave Ziba all the land of Mephibosheth, being convinced Mephibosheth, being convinced Mephibosheth had joined Absalom's rebellion (2 Sam 16.1-4).
03. When David learned that Mephibosheth was true to him, he commanded that the two men share the fruit of the land, as originally done (2 Sam 19.29); but Mephibosheth willingly gave all his share to Ziba, being content that David was safe (2 Sam 19.30).

**LINKS:** *These links are to the writings of men and not to inspired Scripture, thus care and caution in weighing the conclusions is always wise. Some might not be online links, but listing of material commonly available in books and publications.*

01. Burton Coffman on 2 Samuel 19:  
<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/2-samuel-19.html>
02. Albert Barnes on 2 Samuel 19:  
<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/2-samuel-19.html>
03. JFB on 2 Samuel 19:  
<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfb/2-samuel-19.html>

#### IV. Thoughts on the text.

1. **Joab rebukes David for an excessive grieving over Absalom and failing to express appreciation to the troops; and David responds positively (2 Sam 19.1-8).** David was in his own world not even considering others and how they might be reacting to his sadness over the loss of his son Absalom. He really did love Absalom and obviously had concern for his soul since he was not just rebelling against himself, but also against God. David was in need of the strong words from Joab and when they were given, he had no grounds to defend himself. He thus allowed the words of Joab to move him to come out of his isolation and realize the vital role he had to play in the future of the kingdom.
2. **Pro-David forces among the northern tribes argue that they should move quickly to bring David back into power in Jerusalem (2 Sam 19.9-10).** There was no one among all of the people who had more ability and determination to lead the nation in a good way than David. For the most part, he had done well in the past. Most of the people evidently felt he could do the job effectively and they were ready for him to take charge. It is not a good thing for a nation to be without a strong leader when in the midst of many other nations which would have no scruples against attacking and taking over the land. They were in a precarious position, and besides all of this, David was the God-appointed king, which had to be a contributing factor in their considerations.
3. **There is still some resistance to David's return from his own tribe; he sends the priests to appeal for David's return as they stress his kinship with them and bring David's offer to make Amasa commander. The elders of Judah were persuaded (2 Sam 19.11-15).** Again and again, we find David being blessed because of his loyalty to important leaders among the people of God. In this instance, Zadok and Abiathar, the priests, were with David all of the way. He called upon them to persuade those elders of Judah who were somewhat reluctant to serve under David. He was willing to remove Joab as commander of his forces and place Amasa in that position. It seems that perhaps there were some negative feelings toward Joab. The priests were successful in their mission and David's words to them caused the hearts of the men of Judah to be swayed toward favoring him (v. 14). David is escorted across the Jordan.

- 4. As David crosses the Jordan he is met by various people (2 Sam 19.16-23).**
- 5. Mephibosheth, not having groomed himself since David left Jerusalem, seeks to explain his situation—claiming to have been slandered by Ziba. David divides the property between the two (2 Sam 19.24-30).** Shimei was the one who had cursed David on his way into exile (2 Sam 16.5-8). He now is going to plead for mercy before the king. David temporarily granted him mercy, but in his instructions to Solomon Shimei was to be killed (1 Kings 2.8-9). Some believe that the mention of the BENJAMITES in verse 17 could be the first steps taken by the tribe of Benjamin to link itself with Judah. In addition others from Benjamin came, including the only living direct descendant of Saul's household, Mephibosheth and Ziba, steward of Saul's household. Ziba had received a great favor from David—perhaps as a result of lying to David (2 Sam 16.4). He would have been anxious to do whatever he could to remain in favor with David. David, of course, felt obligated by his oath with Jonathan to take care of Mephibosheth. The great effort required by Mephibosheth, as well as his physical appearance, must have been confusing to David, in that he had apparently believed the report of Ziba. Perhaps he was not sure how to determine the truth of this situation so he decided to split the land remaining from Saul between the two of them. After all, Ziba had given to David valuable assistance as he was leaving Jerusalem. He must have felt obligated to reward Ziba for that help. Yet, what David saw with his own eyes must have caused him to believe the Mephibosheth actually had been loyal to him. The joy of Mephibosheth was simply that David had returned safely.
- 6. Barzillai, who had greatly aided David in Mahanaim, was offered a place with David in Jerusalem, but he prefers his own home, suggesting instead Chimham for David to bless (2 Sam 19.31-40).** The supplies and encouragement that Barzillai had provided David at Mahanaim was very greatly appreciated by David. It was significant and much needed at the time. David was a great leader and he did not forget favors. Barzillai was offered an opportunity to live a life of ease in Jerusalem, but he already being wealthy preferred to live in his own home, thus turned down the kind offer from the king. He was not opposed to David giving such a reward to another, though, and suggested Chimham. David was in agreement with the proposal and sent Barzillai off with a warm greeting and expression of appreciation.
- 7. There still exists tension between Judah and the rest of the tribes (2 Sam 19.41-43).** Some passages which speak of the old conflict between Judah and the rest of Israel: Josh 11.21; 1 Sam 11.8; 17.52; 18.16; 2 Sam 2.10; 3.10; 11.11; 12.8. It seems as if the idea of having all the soldiers of Judah but only half of the Israelite soldiers participate in transporting David back over the Jordan was considering a showing of contempt—unintentionally—to the soldiers of Israel. The tribe of Judah was quick to mention their status as next-of-kin. Also acknowledging that this relationship had not really provided them any special reward. Northern tribes were claiming to have 10 shares of David, and also were the first to speak out in favor of bringing David back to the throne. Tension continues between Judah and the rest of Israel. Notice the last words of the chapter: ***And the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.***

**V. Questions.**

**True or False**

- 01. \_\_\_\_ When David sat at the gate, all the people came before him.
- 02. \_\_\_\_ David sent Ahimaaz to speak to the elders of Judah.
- 03. \_\_\_\_ Mephibosheth came before the king with dirty clothes.
- 04. \_\_\_\_ Barzillai was invited to come to Jerusalem.
- 05. \_\_\_\_ Gilgal is a place mentioned in this chapter.

**I Found it in Verse(s)**

- 06. \_\_\_\_ Faces David had shamed.
- 07. \_\_\_\_ An 80-year old man.
- 08. \_\_\_\_ Someone wanted Shimei put to death.
- 09. \_\_\_\_ Ziba’s 15 sons.
- 10. \_\_\_\_ The people at strife throughout the tribes

**Short Answer**

- 11. Judah’s answer to the question of the other tribes:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Place from which Barzillai came.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 13. David told Shimei this:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 14. Message Judah sent back to David.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 15. Joab told David that, from his behavior, it seemed that, if Absalom had lived ...  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is: \_\_\_\_\_**

*Answers will be found on next week’s handout*

**ANSWERS to 2 Samuel 18 Questions...** **01**—True, 2; **02**—False, 7; **03**—True, 16; **04**—True, 20; **05**—True, 33; **06**—5; **07**—19, 22, 27; **08**—11; **09**—32; **10**—16; **11**—What seemeth you best I will do (4); **12**—Though given a thousand shekels of silver (12); **13**—A very great heap of stones (17); **14**—The way of the plain (23); **15**—All is well (28).

**VI. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.** The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. -DRL 5.82Wx6.32H

A T V F C B O A I F T K  
 J U D A H O N N A A G I  
 A R K C O N D U C T S N  
 A N B E U E M B O H H G  
 R J U B S L O R P E J R  
 I S R A E L E I E R E E  
 S N J O R D A N O E C T  
 E W D A V I D G P F A U  
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 M D S I T M A T T E R D  
 L O R D W E N T N J A J  
 L I V E T H E N O A S J

ABSALOM	ARISE	BONE	BRING	CAME
COME	CONDUCT	DAVID	FACE	FATHER
HOUSE	ISRAEL	JORDAN	JUDAH	KING
LIVE	LORD	MATTER	PEOPLE	RETURN
SAID	SERVANT	THEN	THEREFORE	TURN
WENT	WORD			

VII. Crossword Puzzle.

<b>2 Samuel 19 (KJV): From Your Friends at Maple Hill Church of Christ</b> 3960 Scale RD, Benton, KY 42025 <a href="http://maplehillchurchofchrist.blog">http://maplehillchurchofchrist.blog</a>												
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- ACROSS**
- 01) How long Amasa would be replacing Joab.
  - 04) Father of Shimei
  - 07) David was turning victory into it.
  - 10) Mephibosheth and Ziba would \_\_\_\_ the land.
  - 11) After Joab's rebuke, David moved here.
  - 12) Joab accused David of hating them.
  - 13) David describes some of his relatives as \_\_\_\_.

- DOWN**
- 01) He was given Barzillai's reward by David.
  - 02) Position David gave to Amasa.
  - 03) Some of the king's household crossed Jordan on this kind of boat.
  - 05) David had saved the people from them.
  - 06) Compared to Israel's Judah's words were \_\_\_\_.
  - 08) Barzillai offered to come with the king returned to his place.
  - 09) Barzillai was one.