

David's Forces Fight Absalom's Army (c. 974 BC)

2 Samuel 18:1–6

- 1 Then David numbered the people who were with him and set over them commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds.
- 2 David sent the people out, one third under the command of Joab, one third under the command of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the command of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the people, "I myself will surely go out with you also."
- 3 But the people said, "You should not go out; for if we indeed flee, they will not care about us; even if half of us die, they will not care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us; therefore now it is better that you *be ready* to help us from the city."
- 4 Then the king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood beside the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and thousands.
- 5 The king charged Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "*Deal* gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king charged all the commanders concerning Absalom.
- 6 Then the people went out into the field against Israel, and the battle took place in the forest of Ephraim.

O My God, In You I Trust (c. 974 BC)

Psalm 25

A Psalm of David.

- 1 To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- 2 O my God, in You I trust,
Do not let me be ashamed;
Do not let my enemies exult over me.
- 3 Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed;
Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.
- 4 Make me know Your ways, O LORD;
Teach me Your paths.
- 5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
For You I wait all the day.
- 6 Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses,
For they have been from of old.
- 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
According to Your lovingkindness remember me,
For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.
- 8 Good and upright is the LORD;
Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
- 9 He leads the humble in justice,
And He teaches the humble His way.
- 10 All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth
To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.
- 11 For Your name's sake, O LORD,
Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.
- 12 Who is the man who fears the LORD?
He will instruct him in the way he should choose.
- 13 His soul will abide in prosperity,
And his descendants will inherit the land.
- 14 The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him,

- And He will make them know His covenant.
- 15 My eyes are continually toward the LORD,
For He will pluck my feet out of the net.
- 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me,
For I am lonely and afflicted.
- 17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
Bring me out of my distresses.
- 18 Look upon my affliction and my trouble,
And forgive all my sins.
- 19 Look upon my enemies, for they are many,
And they hate me with violent hatred.
- 20 Guard my soul and deliver me;
Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in You.
- 21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
For I wait for You.
- 22 Redeem Israel, O God,
Out of all his troubles.

In You, O LORD, Do I Take Refuge (c. 974 BC)

Psalm 71

- 1 In You, O LORD, I have taken refuge;
Let me never be ashamed.
- 2 In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
Incline Your ear to me and save me.
- 3 Be to me a rock of habitation to which I may continually come;
You have given commandment to save me,
For You are my rock and my fortress.
- 4 Rescue me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked,
Out of the grasp of the wrongdoer and ruthless man,
- 5 For You are my hope;
O Lord GOD, *You are* my confidence from my youth.
- 6 By You I have been sustained from *my* birth;
You are He who took me from my mother's womb;
My praise is continually of You.
- 7 I have become a marvel to many,
For You are my strong refuge.
- 8 My mouth is filled with Your praise
And with Your glory all day long.
- 9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
Do not forsake me when my strength fails.
- 10 For my enemies have spoken against me;
And those who watch for my life have consulted together,
- 11 Saying, "God has forsaken him;
Pursue and seize him, for there is no one to deliver."
- 12 O God, do not be far from me;
O my God, hasten to my help!
- 13 Let those who are adversaries of my soul be ashamed *and* consumed;
Let them be covered with reproach and dishonor, who seek to injure me.

- 14 But as for me, I will hope continually,
And will praise You yet more and more.
- 15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness
And of Your salvation all day long;
For I do not know the sum *of them*.
- 16 I will come with the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD;
I will make mention of Your righteousness, Yours alone.
- 17 O God, You have taught me from my youth,
And I still declare Your wondrous deeds.
- 18 And even when *I am* old and gray, O God, do not forsake me,
Until I declare Your strength to *this* generation,
Your power to all who are to come.
- 19 For Your righteousness, O God, *reaches* to the heavens,
You who have done great things;
O God, who is like You?
- 20 You who have shown me many troubles and distresses
Will revive me again,
And will bring me up again from the depths of the earth.
- 21 May You increase my greatness
And turn *to* comfort me.
- 22 I will also praise You with a harp,
Even Your truth, O my God;
To You I will sing praises with the lyre,
O Holy One of Israel.
- 23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You;
And my soul, which You have redeemed.
- 24 My tongue also will utter Your righteousness all day long;
For they are ashamed, for they are humiliated who seek my hurt.

Absalom Slain and the Revolt Crushed (c. 974 BC)

2 Samuel 18:7–19:8a

David's Army Defeats Absalom's Forces

7 The people of Israel were defeated there before the servants of David, and the slaughter there that day was great, 20,000 men.

8 For the battle there was spread over the whole countryside, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

Joab Kills Absalom

9 Now Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. For Absalom was riding on *his* mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. And his head caught fast in the oak, so he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him kept going.

10 When a certain man saw *it*, he told Joab and said, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak."

11 Then Joab said to the man who had told him, "Now behold, you saw *him*! Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? And I would have given you ten *pieces* of silver and a belt."

12 The man said to Joab, "Even if I should receive a thousand *pieces of* silver in my hand, I would not put out my hand against the king's son; for in our hearing the king charged you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Protect for me the young man Absalom!'

13 Otherwise, if I had dealt treacherously against his life (and there is nothing hidden from the king), then you yourself would have stood aloof.”

14 Then Joab said, “I will not waste time here with you.” So he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through the heart of Absalom while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.

15 And ten young men who carried Joab’s armor gathered around and struck Absalom and killed him.

16 Then Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained the people.

17 They took Absalom and cast him into a deep pit in the forest and erected over him a very great heap of stones. And all Israel fled, each to his tent.

18 Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up for himself a pillar which is in the King’s Valley, for he said, “I have no son to preserve my name.” So he named the pillar after his own name, and it is called Absalom’s Monument to this day.

Ahimaaz and the Cushite Bring David the News of Absalom’s Death

19 Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, “Please let me run and bring the king news that the LORD has freed him from the hand of his enemies.”

20 But Joab said to him, “You are not the man to carry news this day, but you shall carry news another day; however, you shall carry no news today because the king’s son is dead.”

21 Then Joab said to the Cushite, “Go, tell the king what you have seen.” So the Cushite bowed to Joab and ran.

22 Now Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said once more to Joab, “But whatever happens, please let me also run after the Cushite.” And Joab said, “Why would you run, my son, since you will have no reward for going?”

23 “But whatever happens,” *he said*, “I will run.” So he said to him, “Run.” Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain and passed up the Cushite.

24 Now David was sitting between the two gates; and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and raised his eyes and looked, and behold, a man running by himself.

25 The watchman called and told the king. And the king said, “If he is by himself there is good news in his mouth.” And he came nearer and nearer.

26 Then the watchman saw another man running; and the watchman called to the gatekeeper and said, “Behold, *another* man running by himself.” And the king said, “This one also is bringing good news.”

27 The watchman said, “I think the running of the first one is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok.” And the king said, “This is a good man and comes with good news.”

28 Ahimaaz called and said to the king, “All is well.” And he prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground. And he said, “Blessed is the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who lifted their hands against my lord the king.”

29 The king said, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” And Ahimaaz answered, “When Joab sent the king’s servant, and your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I did not know what *it was*.”

30 Then the king said, “Turn aside and stand here.” So he turned aside and stood still.

31 Behold, the Cushite arrived, and the Cushite said, “Let my lord the king receive good news, for the LORD has freed you this day from the hand of all those who rose up against you.”

32 Then the king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” And the Cushite answered, “Let the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up against you for evil, be as that young man!”

David Grieves Absalom’s Death

33 The king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And thus he said as he walked, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

19:1 Then it was told Joab, “Behold, the king is weeping and mourns for Absalom.”

2 The victory that day was turned to mourning for all the people, for the people heard *it* said that day, “The king is grieved for his son.”

3 So the people went by stealth into the city that day, as people who are humiliated steal away when they flee in battle.

4 The king covered his face and cried out with a loud voice, “O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

Joab Angrily Confronts David

5 Then Joab came into the house to the king and said, “Today you have covered with shame the faces of all your servants, who today have saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives, and the lives of your concubines,

6 by loving those who hate you, and by hating those who love you. For you have shown today that princes and servants are nothing to you; for I know this day that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased.

7 Now therefore arise, go out and speak kindly to your servants, for I swear by the LORD, if you do not go out, surely not a man will pass the night with you, and this will be worse for you than all the evil that has come upon you from your youth until now.”

8a So the king arose and sat in the gate. When they told all the people, saying, “Behold, the king is sitting in the gate,” then all the people came before the king.

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