

May 1 Answers

- 1) The end of Absalom's revolt. When Absalom arrived at Jerusalem, Ahithophel, the **grandfather** of Bathsheba, advised him to **rape** David's concubines. This **fulfilled** God's word through Nathan the prophet (2 Sam 12:11–12), and it teaches us that the sin we commit in secret will **find** us out. Anytime Satan tries to convince us that no one will ever know, we should remember this story and **reject** his lies. God enabled Hushai to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel in answer to David's prayer (2 Sam 15:31; 17:14), and it should comfort us to know that the wisdom of the enemy is **powerless** against God's sovereign will. David wrote at least **two** songs during this ordeal, and they are an inspiring example of how to **cast** our cares on God. David poured out his heart to God and cried out for help, but he did not end his prayers in **despair**. Instead, he **comforted** his soul with thoughts of God, and he **chose** ("I will") to praise God in spite of his circumstances. David prepared his army for war and there was a great battle in the **wooded** hills of southern Gilead. Absalom's forces were defeated and Absalom himself was slain. When David learned of his son's death, he **collapsed** in grief. **Joab** angrily confronted David and reminded him that a good leader puts his own feelings and emotions **aside** and does what's best for his people. This shows us how easy it is to be so caught up in our own pain that we're **blind** to the sacrifices of those who love and support us. David's reaction to Absalom's death reveals that he blamed **himself** for everything that had gone wrong with his children. If we don't make the hard choices **early** in our children's lives, we will end up in that chamber over the gate, weeping with David in regret.