

Study Questions

2 Samuel 16 - 24

St. Jerome Adult Bible Study

1. What is Ziba's motive in bearing gifts to David? Can he be trusted?
2. What is significant about Shimei's family ties? Is his anger justified?
3. Why does David attribute Shimei's cursing to God? What does this say about David's character?
4. Is Hushai credible? Why or why not?
5. What does "having relations with [the King's] concubines....in view of all Israel" symbolize?
6. Why does Absalom like Hushai's advice better than Ahithophel's?
7. Why does Ahithophel commit suicide? Is that strange?
8. How does David benefit from the delay of Absalom's attack?
9. David wants to spare Absalom. What statement does this make about his character?
10. Who are the three generals? Why do they want David to stay behind and let the others do the fighting?
11. What's ironic about Absalom's hair getting caught in the tree? (See 2 Sam 14:25-26)
12. What does Joab's treatment of Absalom say about his attitude?
13. What can we further learn about Joab from the speech he makes to David? (19:5-7)
14. Why are the men of Israel so upset in 19:42-44? Is it pride or something else? (Note the use of the term "Judahite" – the word "Jew", meaning "from the tribe of Judah" was not in common use until about 587 BC and the fall of Jerusalem when the people of the Diaspora used it to describe themselves.)
15. Why were the Israelites so willing to follow Sheba?
16. Is Joab's killing of Amasa understandable? Why? Why does his body in the road constitute a roadblock?
17. The woman who confronts Joab as he is preparing to destroy Abel Beth Maacah seems very wise. Does she remind us of anyone?
18. Chapters 21 through 24 are called "Appendixes." Why?
19. Would the psalm in 22:2-51 make a great hymn?
20. Why is God upset with David in 24:1-8? What are God's options? Innocent people then die – what does this say about sins individuals commit today?
21. Why must David pay for the altar materials Araunah offers for free?



(Absalom's Monument)