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David the Ousted King
Second Samuel 15:1 to 19:8



The pathos-filled narrative of **David** and **his** family reaches its dramatic center in this extended story concerning **Absalom's** rebellion. This section is a series of loosely related encounters, each of whom draws us more powerfully into the terrible drama of ruthless power and ambivalent love. In most cases the speeches and words are more important than the actions. They invite us to "listen in" while we witness **Absalom**, like a moth attracted to a flame that will cause its death, **Absalom** will end up at the point of **Joab's** javelin, **his** ultimate death and destruction being self-inflicted.[380]

One of the saddest episodes of the whole Bible is the story of **David's** flight from **Absalom**. Perhaps the most pathetic thing of all was that deep down in **his** heart **David** was probably conscious that **he** deserved what **he** got. Self-inflicted wounds are the deepest of all. As we have seen before (**to see link click Dd – Nathan Rebukes David**), this was the discipline of **Ha'Shem** because of **his** great sin with **Bathsheba**. **He** was being put through the fire, through the testing, by the hand of a loving **God**.

His attitude at that moment was surely one that honored **YHVH**. **His** heart-filled cry is found in **Psalm 62**. **King David**, rejected by **his** people, was going out into the loneliness and barrenness of exile. **His son** and many of **his** relatives and friends,

who had hailed, “Hosanna, welcome to the king!” were now in revolt against **him**. Even under those trying circumstances, **David** would say: **Yes, my soul, finds rest in God; my hope comes from Him. Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; He is my mighty rock, my refuge (Psalm 62:5-7).**[381]