

2 Samuel 18:1-33

The Lord Has Delivered You

God gave David and his people food and provision. God brought them time before the battle. God gives us what we need and God helps us even when we do not know we are under attack.

Vs 1-4 David led. David prepared for battle.

David's followers loved and respected him. David cared for them and they cared for David.

David listened to input from his leaders. He did not rule with an iron fist. He took advice.

David's men believe that this battle will be won or lost depending on whether or not Absalom kills David.

David made a request to all his soldiers. Be gentle with my son. Even though Absalom was seeking to take David's crown and kill David, David had love and compassion for his son.

Who do you need to have love and compassion for even though they have done you wrong?

Vs 6-8 God's people had turned from seeking God and the Israelites lost.

David and his people sought God and they were victorious.

When we seek God and follow Him, life may be hard, but He will always help us and we will always be victorious. We might lose battles, but God and His people always win the war.

In what battles do you need to seek God for help and victory? What battles are you fighting with your own might and your feelings instead of with God and His word?

Vs 9-15 This is a sad story of Absalom going against God and his own father.

Absalom was greedy, vengeful, bitter, selfish, and He did not trust God. It cost him his life.

Where are you thinking of yourself and not God and others?

Vs 16-18 This is a sad day. Absalom is dead. The battle is over. Absalom is buried and covered with rocks. This is a man who had to commemorate himself. He had no title, did not have the hand of God with him, he had no sons, and he hung a banner for himself.

We are created to give God glory and to make disciples of Christ. It is not our job to celebrate ourselves. It is our job to celebrate God and live for Him. If we focus on self, we will fall.

Proverbs 16:18 *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*

1 John 2:16 *..... the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.*

Where are you seeking after self instead of seeking after God and others?

Vs 19-23 This is a sad sad story. David is victorious, but at the expense of his son.

David was forgiven. David was helped by God. But, David was having to deal with the consequences of his sin.

In what areas of your life are you dealing with the consequences of your own sin? Are you willing to give that sin to Jesus and ask His forgiveness and help?

God loves you and He will forgive you of your sin and give you victory to overcome your sin.

Romans 6:6-14 *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

Vs 19-23 It was important that David get the news that his son was dead.

The victory was not going to be celebrated because the king was dead.

Joab killed Absalom. He does not mind that David finds out, but he wants to protect Ahimaaz the priest from being the one that tells David. Ahimaaz is either faster or takes a shorter route.

Vs 24-27 A lone runner was likely a messenger. He did bring good news of a victory, but bad news that David's son was dead.

Vs 28-30 He gives God the glory for victory.

Do you give God the glory for what you have and what you have done and the victories that have been handed to you?

Vs 31-33- David mourns and grieves the loss of his son. As a good parent, David wishes that he could have died instead of his son. He might be referring back to the punishment from Bathsheba.