

Lesson #16, Betrayed!

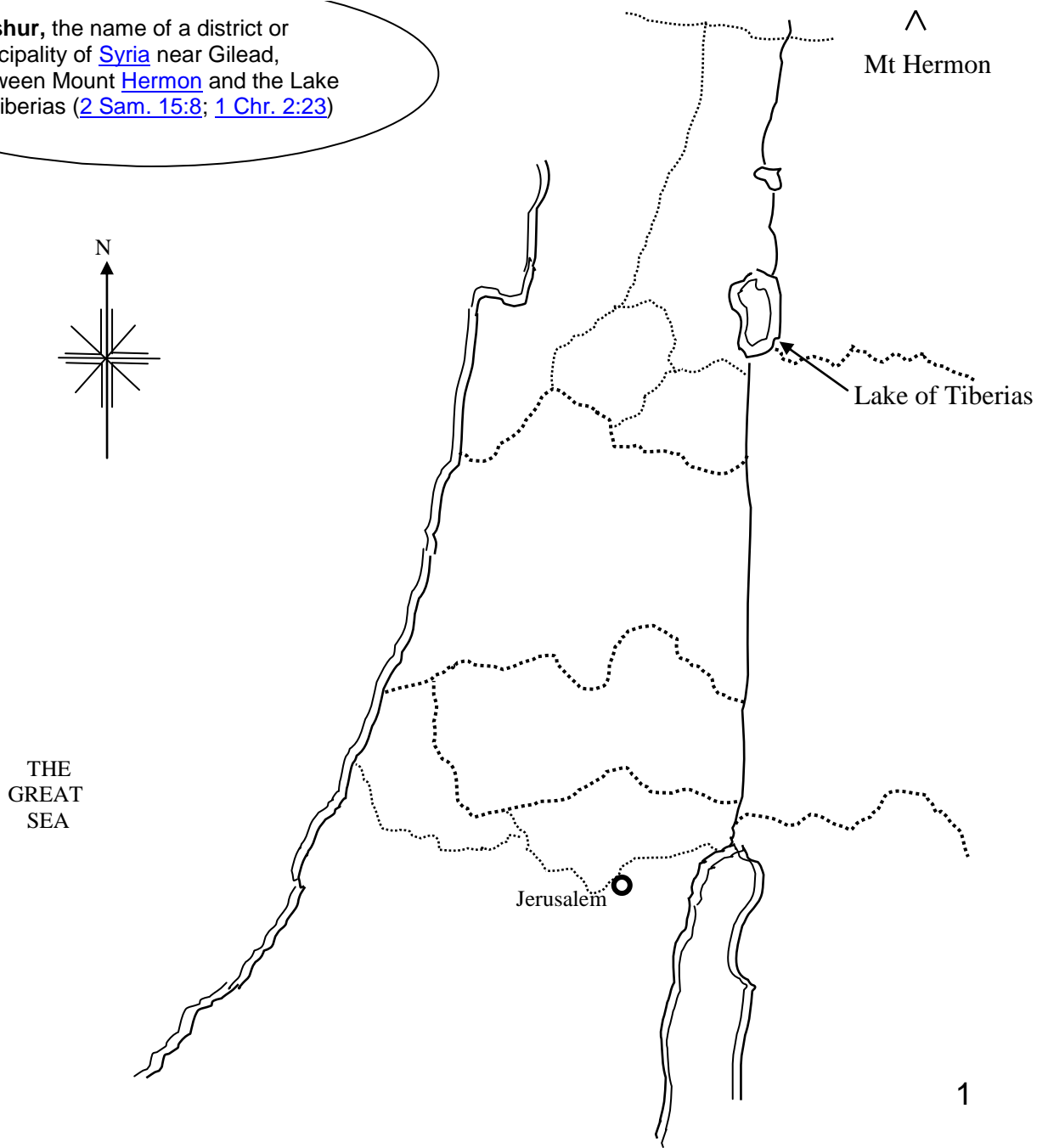
Through the incidents of Amnon's rape of Tamar and Absalom's murder of Amnon, disgrace and the sword had come to David's household. However, there was yet another strand of the predictive prophecy of Nathan which David was about to experience. The Lord had said through his prophet, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house' (II Sam 12:11).¹

13:37 Now Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day. 38 So Absalom had fled and gone to Geshur, and was there three years. 39 The heart of King David longed to go out to Absalom; for he was comforted concerning Amnon, since he was dead.

[1.] Look up II Sam 3:3 and write the probable reason Absalom fled to Geshur?

[2.] On your map, pg#1, draw and label the area of Geshur.

Geshur, the name of a district or principality of [Syria](#) near Gilead, between Mount [Hermon](#) and the Lake of Tiberias ([2 Sam. 15:8](#); [1 Chr. 2:23](#))



II Samuel 13:37-15:12

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14:1 Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was inclined toward Absalom. 2 So Joab sent to Tekoa (~10-mi S. of Jerusalem) and brought a wise woman from there and said to her, "Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning garments now, and do not anoint yourself with oil, but be like a woman who has been mourning for the dead many days; 3 then go to the king and speak to him in this manner." So Joab put the words in her mouth.

4 Now when the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and prostrated herself and said, " Help, O king." 5 The king said to her, "What is your trouble?" And she answered, "Truly I am a widow, for my husband is dead. 6 "Your maidservant had two sons, but the two of them struggled together in the field, and there was no one to separate them, so one struck the other and killed him. 7 "Now behold, the whole family has risen against your maidservant, and they say, 'Hand over the one who struck his brother, that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed, and destroy the heir also.' Thus they will extinguish my coal which is left, so as to leave my husband neither name nor remnant on the face of the earth."

[3.] Since we're still doing map things, what is another name for the Lake of Tiberias?

[4.] 13:37 Now Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. **What route do you think Absalom took when he ran?**

[5.] From 14:1, rewrite, in your own words, **Joab . . . perceived that the king's heart was inclined toward Absalom?**

[6.] v:3, So Joab put the words in her mouth. **the meaning being?**

[7.] Write a few sentences giving the facts of the woman's story.

II Samuel 13:37-15:12

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8 Then the king said to the woman, "Go to your house, and I will give orders concerning you." 9 The woman of Tekoa said to the king, "O my lord, the king, the iniquity is on me and my father's house, but the king and his throne are guiltless." 10 So the king said, "Whoever speaks to you, bring him to me, and he will not touch you anymore." 11 Then she said, "Please let the king remember the Lord your God, so that the avenger of blood will not continue to destroy, otherwise they will destroy my son." And he said, "As the Lord lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground."

v:11, the avenger of blood, This is a specific term identifying the nearest relative of the deceased who would put to death the murderer (Num 35:6-28; Deut19:1-21, Matt 27:25).

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12 Then the woman said, "Please let your maidservant speak a word to my lord the king." And he said, "Speak." 13 The woman said, "Why then have you planned such a thing against the people of God? For in speaking this word the king is as one who is guilty, in that the king does not bring back his banished one. 14 "For we will surely die and are like water spilled on the ground which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away life, but plans ways so that the banished one will not be cast out from him. 15 "Now the reason I have come to speak this word to my lord the king is that the people have made me afraid; so your maidservant said, 'Let me now speak to the king, perhaps the king will perform the request of his maidservant. 16'For the king will hear and deliver his maidservant from the hand of the man who would destroy both me and my son from the inheritance of God.' 17 "Then your maidservant said, 'Please let the word of my lord the king be comforting, for as the angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and evil. And may the Lord your God be with you.'"

[8.] v:14, regarding death, what is the meaning of like water spilled on the ground which cannot be gathered up again?

[9.] What do you think, did the story desire revenge or mercy?

[10.] Was this whole thing about the woman's son or Absalom?

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18 Then the king answered and said to the woman, "Please do not hide anything from me that I am about to ask you." And the woman said, "Let my lord the king please speak." 19 So the king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" And the woman replied, "As your soul lives, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken. Indeed, it was your servant Joab who commanded me, and it was he who put all these words in the mouth of your maidservant; 20 in order to change the appearance of things your servant Joab has done this thing. But my lord is wise, like the wisdom of the angel of God, to know all that is in the earth."

21 Then the king said to Joab, "Behold now, I will surely do this thing; go therefore, bring back the young man Absalom." 22 Joab fell on his face to the ground, prostrated himself and blessed the king; then Joab said, "Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, O my lord, the king, in that the king has performed the request of his servant."

23 So Joab arose and went to Geshur and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. 24 However the king said, "Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face." So Absalom turned to his own house and did not see the king's face.

25 Now in all Israel was no one as handsome as Absalom, so highly praised; from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no defect in him. 26 When he cut the hair of his head (and it was at the end of every year that he cut it, for it was heavy on him so he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head at 200 shekels by the king's weight (~5-lbs) . 27 To Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar; she was a woman of beautiful appearance.

[11.] v:19, David finally figured that Joab was behind the whole story. Why is it important for you, as a leader, to determine the root of family and church issues?

[12.] v:21-22, Did Joab manage to have David do what he wanted all along?

[13.] v:23-24, How were things different for Absalom when he came home?

[14.] v:25-26, What would the people notice about Absalom?

- a) his knowledge of God's word.
- b) his world travels.
- c) his good looks.
- d) his commitment to his brothers & sisters.

II Samuel 13:37-15:12

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28 Now Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem, and did not see the king's face. 29 Then Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. So he sent again a second time, but he would not come. 30 Therefore he said to his servants, "See, Joab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." So Absalom's servants set the field on fire. 31 Then Joab arose, came to Absalom at his house and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?" 32 Absalom answered Joab, "Behold, I sent for you, saying, 'Come here, that I may send you to the king, to say, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me still to be there."' Now therefore, let me see the king's face, and if there is iniquity in me, let him put me to death." 33 So when Joab came to the king and told him, he called for Absalom. Thus he came to the king and prostrated himself on his face to the ground before the king, and the king kissed Absalom.

15:1 Now it came about after this that Absalom provided for himself a chariot and horses and fifty men as runners before him. 2 Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way to the gate; and when any man had a suit to come to the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And he would say, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel." 3 Then Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but no man listens to you on the part of the king."

4 Moreover, Absalom would say, "Oh that one would appoint me judge in the land, then every man who has any suit or cause could come to me and I would give him justice." 5 And when a man came near to prostrate himself before him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. 6 In this manner Absalom dealt with all Israel who came to the king for judgment; so Absalom stole away the hearts of the men of Israel.

[15.] Looking at v:28-29, If Absalom wanted to see David what would he have to do?

[16.] v:30-31, How did Absalom finally get Joab's attention?

[17.] How was v:33, Absalom greeted warmly and honestly by David?

[18.] Considering 15:1-6, List the steps in Absalom's coup d'état (ku-day-taa')?

[19.] v:6, so Absalom stole away the hearts of the men of Israel. How do we know that Absalom's plan was working?

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7 Now it came about at the end of forty years (LXX mss., syr., Josephhus, *four*) that Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go and pay my vow which I have vowed to the Lord, in Hebron. 8 "For your servant vowed a vow while I was living at Geshur in Aram, saying, ' If the Lord shall indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will serve the Lord.'" 9 The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron. 10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, ' Absalom is king in Hebron.'" 11 Then two hundred men went with Absalom from Jerusalem, who were invited and went innocently, and they did not know anything. 12 And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh, while he was offering the sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong, for the people increased continually with Absalom.

[20.] v:1-6 again, do you feel David was honestly clueless or didn't realize the consequences of Absalom's actions?

[21.] Back in 14:19-20, we see that Joab was "Johnnie on the spot" with regard to Absalom. Why is he so silent now?

[22.] Again ([21.] assuming Joab knew what Absalom was doing, why did he let it continue?

[23.] Does it seem that the statement that David said in II Sam 3:39 is now looming very large?

[24.] v:10, What was the signal that would proclaim that Absalom was king?

[25.] Read Heb 13:17 and describe what it means to "keep watch over your souls"?