

Great Differences: Lessons from David & Solomon

This week – Two different death experiences – David (saved), and Absalom, his son, (lost).

**“For Who is God, save the LORD?
And Who is a rock, save our God?”**
2 Samuel 22v32.

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	2 Samuel 15v1-14,37 (Absalom rebels, David leaves Jerusalem)	
Monday	2 Samuel 17v1-14 (Absalom’s aim - to kill David)	
Tuesday	2 Samuel 17v15-29 (The Lord protects David)	
Wednesday	2 Samuel 18 v1-17 (Absalom is killed)	
Thursday	2 Samuel 18 v18-33 (David mourns for Absalom)	
Friday	Psalms 3 (David’s trust in God as Absalom plots his death)	
Saturday	Psalms 61 (David trusts in Christ, the Rock of Salvation)	

Important Thought for us Today: Absalom’s sins were obvious. He had broken **all** of the Lord’s 10 Commandments. His total rejection of God broke the first 4 immediately! He had no respect for his father, wanted his death, cunningly lied, coveted his kingdom, and wanted to steal his father’s crown. It is easy to see he was a sinner, justly deserving God’s eternal judgement.

But what of us? God’s word challenges us to *make sure we are right in God’s sight by ‘Examining ourselves to see if we are in the faith’ (2 Corinthians 13v5).* If Jesus Christ is not yet our Saviour and Lord, if we do not have a repentant heart which has experienced His forgiveness, then we too stand in God’s sight as guilty, commandment breaking, rebels, fully deserving His judgement. The Lord Jesus said, **“He that is not with Me is against Me.” Luke 11v23.**

There are only two types of people in the world – those who rebelliously reject God in unbelief, (either openly as Absalom did or quietly but proudly as Job’s comforters did), and those who sincerely trust and believe in God alone for salvation (as David did). We are all naturally born into the first group and need to be ‘born again’ into the second by The Holy Spirit to become a Christian.

Hymn 27, Based on Psalm 27 - David seeks and finds the LORD’s help in every situation.

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| <p>1. The Lord my Saviour is my light,
What power against my soul shall fight?
While God, my strength, to me is near,
What foe can harm, whom shall I fear?</p> <p>4. When troubles rise, my guardian God
Will hide me safe in His abode!
Firm as a rock, my hope shall stand,
Sustained by His almighty hand.</p> | <p>3. This do I seek with ceaseless care,
And God attends my earnest prayer;
Here may my soul His beauties trace,
And know the wonders of His grace.</p> <p>5. Should every earthly friend depart,
Or should I lose my parents’ heart,
Then God on Whom my hopes depend,
Will still be Father, Guide, and Friend.</p> |
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The Difference At The End.

Contrasting the Difference Between the death of an Unbeliever and a Believer.

- **Background– Absalom Rebels Against His Father. 2 Samuel 11.**
 - Absalom, David’s 3rd son, plotted to become King even before his father died.
- **We Note That: -**
 - **Absalom was Privileged with Many Advantages: -**
 - **Born a wealthy prince** - unlike his father who started as a mere shepherd boy.
 - **Handsome** – none like him in all Israel, praised for his beauty. **2 Samuel 14v25.**
 - **Much loved** by his godly father (who should have been his role model).
 - **Absalom Was Very Cunning, Deceitful, and Rebellious: -**
 - **Without Gratitude** – took full advantage of his privileged position as a prince.
 - **Unrepentant** – welcomed back as a hero rather than disciplined as a sinful rebel.
 - **Used deceit** - to steal the hearts of the people from his father. **2 Samuel 15 v1-6.**
 - **Started a Civil War** – prepared to kill his own father so that he could be King.
 - **Absalom’s Brief Success: -**
 - **He Took Over Jerusalem** – David refused to fight and left Jerusalem, trusting God.
 - **He Knew He Had to Kill His Father to Succeed** – His heart was evil and wicked.
 - **He Planned a Battle** –trusting to his own strength rather than believing in God.
 - **Absalom’s Tragic Death: -**
 - **His vanity killed him!** His long, uncut hair (his pride and joy) caught in an oak tree. Despite David’s order not to harm him, Joab found him hanging and killed him.
 - **David was Heartbroken** – **‘O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!’ 2 Samuel 18 v33.**
 - **David Returned** by popular request and lived out the rest of his life as King.
- **Absalom’s Rebellion and Death Provides a Picture of us when we do not believe: -**
 - **Our Privileges** - Our soul and life are God given; He is gracious and full of loving-kindness, ready to forgive; giving many undeserved blessings throughout our life.
 - **The Rebellion of Unbelief** – Do we reject and battle against God’s rule over us? Do we scoff at His offer of forgiveness, and His warning of judgement, thinking we can sin, and do whatever we like, without serious eternal consequence?
 - **Beware!** Life will end. Death will come. How will God meet us - as Judge or Saviour?
- **David’s Death as a Believer.**
 - **David. although a sinner, had faith and knew God’s cleansing and forgiveness.**
 - **“And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honour.’ 1 Chronicles 29v28.**

Will we, like David, die at peace with God knowing our sins are forgiven, and have God honour His promise of a Saviour, and be part of Heaven, God’s Everlasting Kingdom?

The Prophet Ezekiel wrote, “Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die? ... For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.” Ezekiel 18v31,32.