

Choose Your Monument

June 29, 2025

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2 Samuel 18:1-18

Oak Community Church (PCA)

A Brief Review

- God is sovereign and working in these events 2 Sam 17:14
- We saw how David received aid from 3 loyal followers^{17:27-29}
- V24 both armies positioning themselves for battle
- David at Mahanaim - where Ishbosheth of Saul's clan had reigned^{25:2,8,12}
- Absalom crossed the Jordan^{17:24}, has inexperienced Amasa leading army
- This was all ordained by God to prevent Absalom's rise to power^{25:15:14}

Today's Narrative...

- David deploys in 3 divisions w/ experienced leaders over each
- David seems to 'pick' the battlefield
- Battle was widespread, but 'the forest devoured more...'⁸
- God was sovereignly working through people, terrain, etc...
- God used David's skilled leaders to preserve the kingdom - WSC Q26
- Jesus is our King - ruling & defending us... until He takes us home^{Phil1:6}
- When facing trials & tribulation remember promise of Rom 8:31-39

Absalom's Demise

- Focus of text is on Absalom's death rather than the battle
- "chance encounter"... suspended between heaven & earth=judgment
- Absalom was hanging¹⁰ matches a hanged man is cursed by God^{Dt21:23}
- Absalom rebelled against 5th command^{Ex20:12;Dt5:12}; slept w/ fathers wives^{Lev20:11}
- Absalom was rebelling against God's anointed - contrast w/ David & Saul^{15:24,26}
- WE are like Absalom =rebels deserving God's judgment^{Heb9:27;Rom3:23}
- Truth of the Gospel sets us free^{Gal3:10-11,13-14} by faith in Christ
- On the cross Jesus hung between heaven & earth under judgment for our sins
- Jesus was declared accursed for our sins^{Gal3:13} and bore wrath for our sins^{1Jn2:2}
- How the amazing Great Exchange we receive by faith 2 Corinthians 5:21!

Joab Deals w/ Absalom

- Absalom left hanging in a tree... news brought to Joab¹⁰
- Joab asks, 'why is he not dead?' man responds w/ David's instructions⁵
- Joab ignores argument and takes 3 spears & kills Absalom w/ armor bearers
- If only Absalom had followed Ahithophel's advice and not Hushai's...
- Absalom's choices had consequences^{Gal6:7}

Absalom's Monument

- So Absalom taken down from the tree, thrown in pit & covered in stones¹⁷
- Sad comment: Absalom had set up a monument to self¹⁸...
- But he ends up in a pit covered in stones
- If only he had looked to the grace of God, but instead trusted self
- God cares for those who look to His Name^{Gen12:2;2Sam7:9}
- These promises fulfilled in David's promised Son, Jesus Christ^{Phil2:9-11}
- Don't trust yourself it will end in disaster, look to God's mercy & provision^{Act4:12}
- Live for Christ under the grace of His Gospel^{Mark8:34-38}