

# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CIII

AUGUST, 2025

NO. 8

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## AVON

The world can neither give nor take,  
Nor can they comprehend,  
The Peace of God, which Christ has bought,  
The Peace which knows no end.

The burning bush was not consumed  
While God remained there;  
The three, when Jesus made the fourth,  
Found fire as soft as air.

God's furnace doth in Zion stand;  
But Zion's God sits by,  
As the Refiner views His gold,  
With an observant eye.

His thoughts are high, His love is wise,  
His wounds a cure intend;  
And though He does not always smile,  
He loves until the end.

*Hugh Wilson*

Selected by Lynn H. Miller  
Newmanstown, PA

## WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

One day while Jesus was in Jerusalem, near the buildings of the temple, He told His disciples that it would be thrown down; that not one stone would be left upon another. Then at the Mount of Olives, the disciples asked Jesus when these things would come to pass and what would be the sign of His return and the end of the world. If we can figuratively put ourselves in the shoes of the disciples, likely we can understand how we might have asked similar things of Christ.

In His response as recorded in Matt. 24:5-6, Jesus said “... *many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars...*”

Approximately 2,000 years

later, here we still await the return of Christ and watch for these signs of His return. Through the centuries, many have already falsely claimed to be Jesus Christ or the Messiah, so this portion of Christ's prophesy may have already been fulfilled, at least in part.

And what of wars and rumors of wars? Just for America, the nation was engaged in a number of larger wars in the last century including World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Afghan War and the Iraq War. Further, during this time, the United States was involved in smaller skirmishes with China, Puerto Rico, Indonesia, Cuba, Congo, North Korea, Cambodia, Iran, Libya, Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti,

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## THE BIBLE MONITOR AUGUST, 2025

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Yugoslavia, Yemen, Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Hamas, Hezbollah and most recently, Iran. And America is but one of many nations on the globe.

No one seems to know exactly how many wars there have been since the time Jesus walked the earth. That may in part be due to questions in classifying smaller conflicts as wars. However, most sources indicate that the number of wars in the world over the last two millennia is in the thousands, perhaps exceeding 10,000. With such multitude of wars, could it be that the second part of Christ's prophesy referenced above has also been fulfilled? It certainly seems possible.

While some might tend to focus on these first parts of Christ's prophesy, in seeking signs of the end times, we must consider the whole context of His prophesy. Further, this beginning of His response to the disciples includes not only external signs to watch for but also warnings to watch for internal signs of the heart and soul. Internally, to take heed that no man deceive you and to not be troubled as these things must come to pass. We must know

the truth and stay close to the Author of Truth that we be not deceived and not be troubled, knowing that He is seeing and reigning over all things.

Continuing on in His prophesy, in Matt. 24:7-14, Jesus lays out a clearer picture of the events which shall unfold as we approach the end, which Christ describes as the beginning of sorrows: many wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes in diverse places. He then details that "they" will be delivered up to be afflicted and killed, being hated of all nations for His name's sake. Many will be offended and betray and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and deceive many and as iniquity will abound, the love of many will wax cold. Terrible times indeed. Yet Jesus indicates that even in the midst of all this trouble, the Gospel of the Kingdom will still be going forth and the end shall not come until it is preached in all the world for a witness. Praise God!

Today, the world is a busy place. Even for those who follow world news, it can be difficult to stay abreast of current geopolitical situations or to understand what is truly

happening. Major changes sometimes come quickly and this can be unsettling. While we may understand that God is at work, drawing His Kingdom together, when considering these end time prophecies, our hearts may lead us to fear. At such times, we would benefit to remember the warnings and instructions that Jesus included in His prophesy: 1 – Be not deceived, 2 – Be not troubled and 3 – Endure to the end. In short, put your trust in Jesus Christ and the Word. When our human hearts lead us toward walking by sight, let us remember to yield to the heart of God, through the Holy Spirit dwelling within us and walk by faith.

*“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”* Is. 41:10

*“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”* Matt. 24:27

*“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”* Matt. 24:36

*“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.”* Matt. 24:32-33

*“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”* Rev. 22:12-14

K. Brock

## HOW DO YOU SEE IT NOW?

Haggai 2:3 *“Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now?”*

Many in the Monitor audience take their brethren heritage for granted. Some see it as a blessing but others see it as a curse. We know of many that no longer live a life of nonconformity to the world. I was a teenager before I knew about my grandmother's grandfather who was an elder in the Old Brethren Church in the nineteenth century. Just a few years after that I visited the old Frystown meetinghouse. It was the early 1970's and I will never forget the appearance of the place, as well as the preaching and the singing. I was young in the faith and was anxious to see the Bible lived out by God's people. Here was an order and an organization that I had not seen anywhere else.

If we read history, and we should, we know why our forefathers left the Protestant Church. This happened in the early 1700's and we believe God blessed their efforts. Factions of the existing church were taking up arms against each

other as well as engaging in many unscriptural practices. Our brethren took a stand and separated themselves from the bulk of the Reformation Movement which was in constant turmoil. Persecution in Europe was intense and most of these brethren came to the New World. For 150 years, they stood for God and the Bible and were unique and recognizable but by the late 1800's ecumenical winds began to blow. Many began to see the tide turning. Things began to change. How many years passed before changes were seen? For the European Brethren that came to America, it was less than 200 years.

When I first contemplated the scripture above, there were quite a few that still remembered the 1920's. Now there is not. But the question must be asked: are we further ahead as a fellowship than when we were a hundred years ago? Are we still a shining city on a hill showing others the way?

Examining ourselves is an individual task, and also a communal one. Let us do so. Do we read history? We must

do so. We cannot afford to let the “woke” generation change our history for us. If we know the truth, it will set us free. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. We can find it no where else. The truth of God’s Word is Jesus. Embrace Him.

Worship Him, yesterday, today and forever. Do not allow Satan to lead you down another path as he has lead others. Follow Jesus. Do not look to the right or to the left. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

O cross that lifteth up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life’s glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

*George Matheson, 1882*

Lynn H. Miller  
Newmanstown, PA

## **LIVING AND DYING ON PURPOSE**

Everybody has a purpose in life, although many have yet to discover it. It seems sad to meet somebody who just seems to be stumbling through life with absolutely no purpose or goal. What makes him or her get up in the morning?

Man did not just appear on earth in a vacuum. Behind God creating man is a marvelous divine purpose. I can understand why many people cannot discover that purpose. They have ruled God out of their life.

They may not say it in those words, however, everything in their life rings true to that statement. God has no visible purpose in their life. Most people pray when they are in trouble. Some go to church when they are in trouble. The problem here is, when they seem to be out of trouble, they no longer need God or the church. To them, God is just an insurance policy.

Our whole culture is designed to keep us so busy we do not have time to just sit down and see which way we are

going. By the time we are done with one project, three or four others are waiting to be tackled. And I think I know who is behind all of this frantic activity.

It is quite rare for a person these days to just sit down and ponder their life. Just to think about what is happening, where they are going and what they could be doing with their life. Many go from one crisis to another crisis without any real change in their life.

When you stop to think about it, man has the highest purpose in all creation.

Many people will go out of their way to defend the rights of animals, and I have no problem with that. However, some of these people see animals as having more rights than people or even themselves. We treat dogs like humans and humans like dogs.

In America, we are all about "our rights." How many wars have we fought defending this?

I love animals as much as anybody else. However, man has the highest purpose in all of God's creation. Only of man did God say, "Let us make man in our image." No other creation

reflects the image of God within as human beings and no other creature has a soul that can respond to and have fellowship with this God.

In light of this, we need to understand that God created us for a purpose. That being so, we need to realize that God will hold us to that purpose. Everything He does in our life harmonizes with that purpose. If I do not understand that purpose, much of what's happening in my life will not make sense and I probably won't be able to see the hand of God in my life. Consequently, my life may be full of confusion not knowing which way I am going. I believe the enemy tries to extend on that because the Bible says, "God is not the author of confusion." Yet I think I know who is the author of confusion.

Some people try to figure out their life, but they leave out the key ingredient, which is God. If you take away the God element from a man, he has no purpose. God gives purpose to a man. God created us with a specific purpose in mind and discovering that purpose is the great joy of life.

Everything God does in

my life is in harmony with his purpose for me. When I begin to understand that purpose, I begin to see my life in a very different light. I begin to see God molding and developing my life according to His designs.

What Solomon said is so true. *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths”* (Prov. 3:5-6). Relying on my understanding will certainly lead me down the wrong path. My relationship with God should be of such a nature that I trust Him implicitly in every aspect of my life. Ignorance of this will lead me to personal disaster.

God created me for Himself, and only God can bring purpose and meaning into my life. By trying to discover who I am outside of God, I will never really understand me. There is good reason why many people are not satisfied with themselves. All kinds of plastic surgery and reassignment surgery and the list goes on! People do not really know who they are and what they do know about themselves, they do not like.

When I get to know God, I

begin to understand my purpose in God’s world. After all, this is God’s world and He is in charge.

Then I can come to the point where I can live and die on purpose. A call rests upon my life and a perspective about my life that rises above all of the difficulties of my life. My focus is not on the difficulties of life, but on God.

How many celebrity stories have we heard along this line? At one point in their life, they are on top of the world. Everybody is talking about them. Everything went like that and then the inevitable happens. Their 15 minutes of fame expired and now nobody remembers their name, everybody has moved on to the next celebrity. That is an awful thing to someone who lives for that. Life begins spiraling downward and many have sadly come to the point of suicide.

Life without purpose or not knowing that purpose is no life at all. Dying without purpose or not knowing that purpose is meaningless and empty. Those who have discovered God in their life and have committed themselves to His will discover an amazing glow of purpose all about them.



How wonderful it is to live each day of our life knowing that we are on target as far as God is concerned. Others may not understand this, but we are living a life under the guidance

of God. He takes great delight in me.

James L. Snyder  
Ocala, FL

## CONNECTIONS

*As members of the Bible Study Board our hope in writing monthly articles related to the Adult Sunday School Lessons is that we all see afresh different points of connection that reveal the Word made flesh.*

All scripture is of the utmost value to the Christian. The issues that are explored in the passage of scripture studied this month make it indispensable. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your study because human wisdom won't be enough to unravel the complexity of this situation.

As prophesied by Nathan, the sword is firmly in place in David's house and evil has risen against him from the inside. Even David's own sentence of the man in Nathan's parable, whom he would have required to restore the lamb fourfold, is imposed upon himself. Calamity has descended in rapid succession upon four of his children in just seven chapters.

Ahithophel's abrupt betrayal

can likely be traced to outrage at David's treatment of his granddaughter (II Sam.11:3 & 23:34). His final counsel to Absalom would be deadly to David if it was followed. However, the Lord had appointed to defeat this counsel to the intent that He might bring evil upon Absalom. David prayed "Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God" (Ps. 3:7). David will be saved but it will be at the expense of the death of his son. Surely David knows he is responsible as a father to his son and also bears responsibility as king to his nation.

Having fled from Jerusalem in apparent weakness, the tables have turned for now David has the upper hand. A battle in the woods for a former guerrilla warrior is fighting on familiar turf. The people are numbered

and the captains set over them. The king instructs them in front of everyone *“deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom.”* In spite of all that has happened, David the father still has much love for his son.

In an effort to present his usurpation of the throne as *fait accompli*, Absalom chose to ride on a mule. In those days, a king would ride on a mule after conquering a people group to symbolize his kingship, his triumph, and to show that he now comes in peace. Absalom's self-confidence leads him right into his defeat. His head, with all its mental abilities and beautiful hair, is what catches him in the tree. He helplessly dangles between heaven and earth and can only watch as the very symbol of his kingship walks out from under him.

The treacherous Joab is always ready to take advantage of a situation and benefit himself. He and his armor bearers slay Absalom and bring an end to the battle. Once again, Joab has manipulated the situation in an unethical way. Also once again, David has escaped but it is at a great price.

The runners bring the good tidings of God's deliverance to David. The single question he asks them both shows his only concern. *“Is the young man Absalom safe?”* You can feel the anguish in the broken heart of a father. *“O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee!”* Can you begin to get a sense of how God the Father must feel when His only Son, His perfect Son, experienced death at the hands of sinful men?

The setting of this civil war in the nation of Israel allows David no possibility of victory. If he had won the battle against his son and captured him alive, rebellion would have still been present in the nation. But the quelling of the rebellion and the elimination of the anarchist is the death of his son. No father would ever be able to find any victory in this solution nor any king have victory in this price for peace. Truly it is only God's wisdom that can work out salvation for his people. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God!

*On behalf of the Bible Study Board*  
Bro. Kidron Crist

## NEWS ITEMS

### Teaching Positions Available - Bethel Dunkard Brethren School

Are you passionate about making a difference in children's lives? We invite you to prayerfully consider the opportunities available at Bethel Dunkard Brethren School.

We are currently seeking dedicated individuals for the following positions:

- Teacher for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- Teacher for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Teacher for 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Teacher for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Two teacher's helpers

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Anthony Martin at **717-202-5795**.

### Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania

The members of the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church, cordially invite you to attend our revival meetings to be held July 27-August 3 with Evangelist, Bro. Rodney Kimmel of the Berean, Indiana congregation. The service times are as follows:

Sunday (July 27) 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Monday thru Saturday evenings 7:30 p.m.

Sunday (Aug 3) 9:30 a.m. - everyone is welcome to a fellowship meal following the morning service.

Come praying and bring a friend!

Sharon Lehigh, Correspondent

### Hart Michigan

The Hart, Michigan congregation invites you to join us for our revival meetings with Bro. Gerry Priest of Hagerstown, Maryland (Chambersburg Pennsylvania Congregation) August 3-10. Week-night services will be at 7 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. There will be a love feast service Saturday evening the 9th (time

to be decided) and the final message Sunday a.m. Please pray for Bro. Gerry and our congregation as he brings God's Word to us.

Rachel Reed, Correspondent

### **Grandview, Missouri**

We extend a heartfelt and warm welcome to come worship with us as we have our revival meetings August 28-31 with Bro. Clem Bowman from the Cornerstone, Ohio congregation. Service times are Thursday & Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m., followed by lunch, examination at 2 p.m., supper at 4:30 p.m. and Lovefeast at 6 p.m. Sunday morning worship at 8 a.m., breakfast at 8:30 a.m., Sunday School & preaching at 10 a.m. and lunch at noon. Please pray for Bro. Clem as he prepares to share the Word. We welcome your presence & prayers.

Karen Rissler, Correspondent

### **Women's Retreat**

Ladies...don't forget to mark your calendars for Women's Retreat October 3-4 at Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center in Angola, Indiana. Please join us for a time of spiritual encouragement, fellowship, worship (and excellent food!). This year's theme is "Sharing the Good News of Jesus" and the speakers are Pheba Sam, Melanie Sensenig and Sarah Priest. Make sure to see the brochure for information regarding registration. Please pray for this year's retreat and for the speakers as they prepare.

### **Minutes in One Volume**

The updated Minutes from General Conferences are now available on the Dunkard Brethren website. With this update, Minutes from all the way back to the beginning of the Dunkard Brethren Church are now digitally available. This single volume includes General Conference Minutes from 1927 to 2024.

To see the Minutes in One Volume, go to the Dunkard Brethren Church website and:

- Scroll down to "Publications"

- Click on “Learn More”
- In “Dunkard Brethren Church Minutes”, click “Download”

This digital version of the Minutes is quite useful as it is not only organized by topic but is also searchable. For example, if you are interested in seeing the history of conference decisions on topics such as Baptism or Missions, simply refer to the Table of Contents and review the appropriate section which provides a chronological history of decisions on the topic. Alternatively, you can search for words such as “Baptism” or “Missions”, etc. to find what you are looking for.

A special thanks to Bro. Marvin Lorenz for the many hours he has invested in this project.

## Reminder – DBC Books for Sale

### Rudy's Bible Stories

Rudy Cover grew up in California and he and his wife Esther were members of the Old Brethren Church until they joined the Dunkard Brethren Church. Rudy had a gift for storytelling, especially for children and he submitted many articles of the Old and New Testament to the Bible Monitor over a number of years. After Rudy's passing in 2007, Bro. Milton Cook had the idea to bring Rudy's stories together into a book for children. After several years, the book was completed, including illustrations from Milton's granddaughter, Bethany Johnson.

*Rudy's Bible Stories* is available on Amazon in paperback (\$11.99), hardcover (\$19.99) and Kindle (\$0.99). The book includes approximately 240 of Rudy's Bible stories and approximately 20 illustrations by Sis. Bethany Johnson. To buy your copy, just login to Amazon and search for “Rudy's Bible Stories” or for “Dunkard Brethren Publishing”. To save some

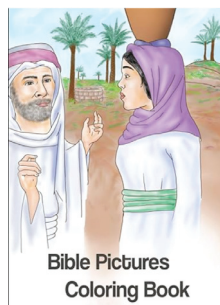


shipping costs, groups or congregations may want to consider bulk ordering, especially through those with Amazon Prime.

As noted in the description on Amazon, *“Discover stories of the Bible that will not only entertain your child but ground them in the truth. The author relates the stories and often shares experiences from his own life. Each story lists Bible references so that your child can look them up on their own. Use these Bible stories for kids 8 -12 years old in several ways in your home. Perhaps as Bible bedtime stories for kids who are younger, or as a devotional for those who are older. Homeschooling parents might use them in their reading or Bible curriculum.”*

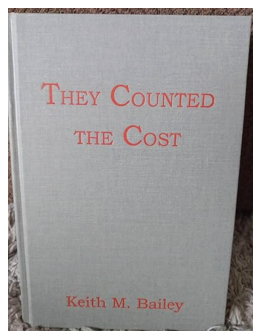
### Coloring Book

Additionally, a coloring book featuring Sister Bethany’s drawings is available through Amazon in paperback (\$4.99). In Amazon, search for “Bible Pictures Coloring Book” or for “Dunkard Brethren Publishing”.



### They Counted the Cost (DBC History Book)

In 2009, Bro. Keith M. Bailey (d. 2015) published this book detailing the history of the Dunkard Brethren Church. This book covers the history of the church from its inception to 2008. Hardcover (\$20 with Free shipping), available through Amazon or for \$10/ea. by contacting a member of the Publication Board. Below is the book summary posted on Amazon.



The second significant spiritual awakening to follow the Reformation was the Pietist movement. Pietism began as a spiritual renewal with the Lutheran and Reformed churches. The emphasis was on the need for a true conversion and a Spirit-

filled life. This message resonated with Alexander Mack. A small group of believers in Schwarzenau, Germany joined Mack in a careful study of scripture. Convicted of their need for water baptism as adult believers, they organized a church in 1708. Mack and other brethren immediately began preaching beyond their community. Stiff opposition and persecution arose from the state churches. In 1719 the Swarzenau Brethren began migrating to Pennsylvania. In the years following they prospered and looked to the west for expansion. Economic opportunity and evangelistic fervor drove them across the continental United States. The German Baptist Brethren, as they were now known experienced growing pains. A schism in the 1870s brought a three-way split in the denomination. In 1908 the primary body became the Church of the Brethren. But cultural change, and the lack of sound theology to deal with it, left the church vulnerable. Conservatives in the early 1900's had a growing concern with the drift of the church. Among them was B.E. Kesler, a missionary and elder. In 1922 Kesler established a periodical (the Bible Monitor) to voice their concerns. This segment of the church proved unsuccessful in its effort to bring reform. In 1926 Kesler and others of like mind withdrew to form the Dunkard Brethren Church. This book reviews significant events, individuals, and the missionary outreach of this movement.

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR August 2025**

### **Aug. 3. - II Sam. 17:1-16 - Seeking Others' Counsel**

1. What was the main difference between the counsel of Ahithophel and the counsel of Hushai?  

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2. How does this last piece of the counsel of Ahithophel to Absalom fit in the fulfilling of the prophecy of Nathan?  

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3. Why did Absalom say Hushai's counsel was better than Ahithophel's counsel?  

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4. Did Hushai consider the possibility that Absalom suspected his espionage and allegiance to David?  

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### **Aug. 10 - II Sam. 17:17-29 - The Pursuit Continues**

1. Is David drawing from his earlier experiences of being chased by a King who has been rejected by God?  

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2. Why did Ahithophel hang himself?  

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3. Does it appear like following the counsel of Ahithophel would have enabled Absalom to catch David?  

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4. To what lengths should a monarch go to avoid a civil war?  

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### **Aug. 17 - II Sam. 18:1-18 - Absalom Dies**

1. How does David's instruction to his army captains embody Jesus' instruction to "love your enemies"?  

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2. Does the terrain where the battle took place lend itself to the strengths of the people of Israel or the servants of David?  

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3. Is there significance to the fact of Absalom riding a mule?  

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4. What caught Absalom?  

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5. What could be some reasons that Joab led the slaying of Absalom?
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**Aug. 24 - II Sam. 18:19-33 - David Learns of Absalom's Death**

1. How does Joab show cognizance of the dilemma that the result of the battle will create with David?
- 
2. Are the runners' messages that the Lord God has delivered and avenged good tidings to David?
- 
3. What is the question that David asks both runners?
- 
4. Can the concerns of David's roles of king and father be reconciled? Does this give us a sense of the mercy and justice of God our Father and King?
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**Aug. 31 - II Sam. 19:1-15 - David Mourns for Absalom**

1. Does the people's shame due to the King's mourning for his rebellious son lend credence to the statement of Samuel in I Sam. 8:18?
- 
2. Do you find yourself in the uncomfortable position of agreeing with the treacherous Joab because of the assertion he makes in his speech in verses 5&6?
- 
3. How does David use his political skill to bow the heart of the men of Judah as one?
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