

**BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL**  
**BRINGING BACK THE KING**  
**2 SAMUEL 19:9-40**

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**Introduction**

There was little argument that David's forces had won for him a decisive victory to restore him to the throne of Israel! Israel's latest king, Absalom, was now dead and **in reality there was no one else truly qualified to lead the country other than King David!**

After all, **David was still God's anointed king** even though those who backed Absalom in his rebellion were also in rebellion against God by their actions!

Nevertheless, **there was still much strife and division** in the nation of Israel that surrounded this matter of what was going to happen here at the end of this civil war in Israel!

We see in this the questions swirling about in this Chapter! Questions such as:

- Will we or will we not bring back King David?
- Who will be responsible for bringing him back?
- Will David be an effective leader after all that has transpired?
- Will David seek reprisal against those who rebelled and backed Absalom?
- Can David heal the nation and bring the reconciliation that was needed?

**Vs 9**

Israel acknowledged that David had been an effective leader for them in the past. He had saved them out of the hand of their enemies, especially, the Philistines! But he had also fled the land in the face of Absalom's rebellion!

**Vs 10**

But now their dilemma was that Absalom, who they had backed and anointed as king, was now dead! (i.e. Understand that they had a part in David leaving Israel to begin with and the question was...are we going to be the ones to bring David back?)

Now understand that this was **"all of Israel"** (Which is what the northern ten tribes were known by as opposed to Judah which was the southern two tribes.) So, Israel decided that they would initiate the effort to bring David back.

**Vs 11-12**

David questions Zadok and Abiathar the priests of Judah about **why Judah, the tribe that David is from, was the last to talk about bringing the King back to his home!**

**Vs 13**

As a peace offering to his people, **David proposes here to replace Joab, the captain of his army, with Amasa who had been the leader of Absalom's army when the rebellion took place! (17:25)**

**This was an attempt to reconcile and restore the nation! David took the leader of the rebel army and made him leader of the combined forces after the Civil War!**

*Think about if after the Civil War in our country, President Abraham Lincoln had placed the forces of all of the United States with General Robert E. Lee of the South! How well do you think that would have went over?*

**Don't you wonder what Joab thought about that?** Especially after he had played such a **key role** in David's victory! Also after what we saw last week as he had **to wake David up** to the fact that **he was so consumed with grief that he was neglecting his people and confusing many by his actions!** Joab is the one who warned him that he'd better do something quick or he was about to lose all those that supported him in his efforts against Absalom!

But we need to understand that **Judah has a vested interest in this because it was in Judah where the rebellion actually began!** They have no idea if David will be civil toward them or not! His own tribe and brethren were fearful that he might turn on them!

**Vs 14**

So we see that David's actions seemed to have the desired effect here as Judah invited David and everyone with him to return!

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Vs 15

We see here in *verse 15* that David returned as far as Jordan while Judah came to **Gilgal for the purpose of helping King David cross the Jordan on his return trip back to Jerusalem.**

**Gilgal is where Israel crossed Jordan over into the Promised Land** under Joshua's leadership and set up a memorial of twelve stones there and where they first set up camp! (*Joshua 4:19-20*)

**Gilgal is where the men of the children of Israel renewed their covenant with God by all being circumcised at one time prior to going in to conquer the land.** That's because the children that were born in the wilderness wanderings had not been circumcised! That was when **Gilgal** got its name: *Joshua 5:9 "And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day." (Gilgal = Rolling away)*

**Gilgal is where Israel FIRST observed the Passover in the Promised Land!** *Joshua 5:10 "And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho."*

**Gilgal is one of the three places where Samuel went to judge the children of Israel according to 1 Samuel 7:16.** (Bethel, Gilgal, & Mizpeh)

**Gilgal is where Saul was made King!**

*1 Samuel 11:15 "And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly."*

**Gilgal is also where Saul messed up and offered sacrifices instead of waiting on Samuel! (1 Samuel 13)**

**Gilgal is where Samuel met Saul after he disobeyed the LORD and failed to destroy the Amalekites like the LORD told him to do!**

And it is where Samuel hacked King Agag to death!

So **Gilgal** was an important little place there on the banks of the Jordan River! And we see here that it is once again a place of **"rolling away"**! **"Rolling away"** the reproach of what had happened in Absalom and Israel's rebellion against King David!

Vs 16-23

Here we see **the reconciliation of Shimei with David.** Remember hearing this name Shimei recently? He was the one that had cursed David and had a rock throwing fit at the same time for no good reason! Well, we see him acknowledge he was wrong here! Was he sincere? Only God knows for sure! He could have just been trying to save himself from retaliation by David! David saves him from Abishai again!

Vs 24-30

Next we see **Mephibosheth comes down to meet the King!** We've already addressed this whole story of Mephibosheth and his servant Ziba, but let's read this portion as a reminder of the final disposition of the matter!

Vs 31-40

**Next we see David showing his gratitude to Barzillai the Gileadite.**

Remember how we saw in **2 Samuel 17:27-29** that he was one of three men that God used to provide for David and all those with him when they had fled from Absalom and had come to Mahanaim. He was the old rich guy God used! And now we see David wanting to show his gratitude to him!

Vs 41-43

We will see next week that all is not well in the kingdom. Some of the northern boys got upset because they had decided to bring back David first, but the southern boys brought David back without them!

We'll see in the next Chapter that one man from the north causes a ruckus!