

Tuesday 11th August

Recall

1. When David's army went to battle, what did David tell his three commanders?
Hint: The battle was fought against David's son, Absalom.
2. How did Absalom die?
Hint: He was riding a mule. Hint 2: There was an oak tree.
3. When Absalom died, what did his younger brother do?
Hint: He did it without David knowing. Hint 2: He made many sacrifices and offerings.
4. What was the promise that David had made to his wife Bathsheba?
Hint: Nathan the prophet reminded Bathsheba of this promise when Adonijah was busy making himself king.

Summary

David placed the command of his men under Joab, Abishai and Ittai and told his people that he would surely join them in battle as well. But the people responded that he was equal to ten thousand of them and insisted that he remained in the city. So, David obliged and stood by the city gate as all the troops marched out by hundreds and by thousands. David commanded the three leaders that Absalom should be dealt with gently for his sake and this command was heard by all. The troops went into battle and those who fought for David triumphed, but the loss was great and twenty thousand men died that day.

Absalom happened to meet David's soldiers while riding upon his mule. The mule went under a great oak tree and as it did, Absalom became caught in the branches so that he hung in the air as though he was suspended between heaven and earth. Joab took three spears in his hand and drove them into Absalom's heart while he was still hanging from the tree. Joab turned to a slave and commanded him to take the news to David. When David heard the news, he wept bitterly and though the people had been victorious in battle, their happiness soon turned to sorrow when they saw that David was in mourning.

David's younger son, Adonijah gathered support and made preparations to become the next ruler by offering many sacrifices. Then Nathan the prophet said to Bathsheba, David's wife and mother of Solomon. "Have you not heard that Adonijah has been made ruler without David even knowing it?" Nathan reminded Bathsheba of the promise that David had made to make Solomon the next king. Bathsheba went to David, who was now very old and reminded him of this promise.

David gave his own mule to Solomon to ride upon and instructed his priests to make Solomon ruler over Israel. Trumpets were blown and it was announced to all that Solomon was the true ruler. While this was happening, Adonijah was finishing his own celebrations and he became very fearful when all his terrified guests left him. He went to an altar and held onto the horns of the altar, for fear of Solomon. Adonijah would not let go unless Solomon promised that he would not kill him. Solomon declared that if Adonijah was innocent, not one hair on his head would be touched, but if he was not, he would be killed. Adonijah bowed down before Solomon and was sent to his home.

After Solomon was made ruler over Israel, David died and was buried in the City of David. He had reigned over his people for forty years.

Drawing

Draw a picture from yesterday's story, listen to the summary if you are not sure. Do your drawing in your main lesson book (large blue or purple book) or your English practice book (medium blue or green book) if you have run out of pages.

Recap

David's son Absalom would stand beside the highway with a chariot, horses and fifty men and call every man to speak to him. He would tell the people that their claims were good and just and that it was a shame that the ruler had not appointed anyone to listen to them. Absalom would say to them that if only he was made a judge of the land, he would bring justice. In this way, all those seeking justice from David had their hearts stolen by Absalom.

Absalom then made plans to become a ruler in Hebron. Not knowing his intentions, David let him go and many people followed him. One day a messenger came to David and told him that the hearts of the men of Israel had gone over to Absalom. Hearing this, David told his people to flee so that they might escape the evil of Absalom. He went into the Wilderness and Zadok and Abiathar followed, carrying the Ark of the Covenant. But David said that the Ark of the Covenant should be taken back to the city of Jerusalem and if it is God's will, he will bring him back to the city.

With his remaining men, David climbed the Mount of Olives, with his head covered and his feet bare, weeping. At the top of the mountain, he met a friend, Hushai and asked him to return to Jerusalem and send word of everything he heard.

Absalom was advised to take twelve thousand men and find David. The army of men would scare David's followers and make them flee. Then David alone would be killed and everyone would accept Absalom as their king. As Hushai had gained Absalom's trust, Absalom asked him for his advice as well. Hushai told him that it was not a good idea, for David and his men were fearsome warriors. As well as this, Hushai told Absalom that David did not spend the night with his people, but hid in the caves. If men were to approach the camp, others would die and word would spread that there is slaughter amongst those who follow Absalom. Instead Hushai advised Absalom to gather all the Israelites to him, as many as there is sand by the sea. In this way, they would find David and kill him.

When Absalom agreed, Hushai sent messengers to warn David. The messengers were to find David without being seen, but as they entered the city, a young boy saw them and told Absalom. The two messengers quickly went into the house of a man where they were hidden in a well, covered with cloth and dried fruits. The messengers were not found and when it was safe, they made their way to David and warned him to cross the river Jordan and escape.

Writing

Do your writing in your main lesson book or in your English practice book if you have run out of pages. Remember to draw writing lines if you need them or a border and a background. Please read the writing first and when you have finished writing, read it again and edit if you need to.

Absalom betrayed his own father. Through lies and plots, he stole the hearts of the people of Israel and David was forced to flee his own city. David placed his trust in God, knowing that he would be returned to his city if it was God's will.

