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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1513 ~ Jonathan and Ahimaaz warn David.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

A well known Christian pastor told how he felt as a teenager when he received his driver's licence. He was so pleased! And to top it off his father offered him a loan of the family car with a full tank of fuel to drive anywhere he wanted to go for two hours. Of course he accepted and backed the car carefully out of the driveway.

As he drove along all by himself, going nowhere in particular, temptations stole into his mind. If he raced along he could get to a certain place and have time to get back home before the 2 hours were over. If he went over the speed limit there was no one in the car to tell him what he could not do. The pastor did not give into these temptations. Why? He had such a strong relationship of respect with his father that he didn't want to do anything that harmed that mutual trust.

Absalom had no such respect for his father King David. Nor did Absalom understand the duties of being a national leader. He wanted all the pomp and ceremony of being a king without any concern for the needs of the Israelite people. Absalom was a proud man and wanted nothing to stand in the way of his selfish ambition. He even asked his father's best advisor, Ahitophel, to help him take over the kingship from David. Such bad attitudes could never bring God's blessing on him, yet Absalom did not foresee God's over-ruling control on his plans.

When King David left Jerusalem to run from Absalom, his faithful servants went with him. So did his family and supporters – no one was made to go. Likewise, anyone who wanted to join Absalom in his rebellion could do so as well. From this situation, David reminds us of the Lord Jesus. Even though Jesus is King of Kings, the Lord Jesus does not force anyone to become His disciple. Each person must come to Him willingly. Some religions demand that people do just what they are told. But with the Lord Jesus, each person has to think through the claims Jesus made about God and His work on earth. We love God with our hearts and minds.

When David and all the people with him waited at the Jordan River for news about what was happening with Absalom, David started lamenting over his past failures and sins.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

David recognized that God will forgive many sins when they are repented of, but the consequences of those sins may haunt the wrongdoer for the rest of their life. David despaired of things getting better. He thought the consequences of his sins were getting worse with time. Despair is a complete loss or absence of hope – a mood from which one sees no hope of emerging.

David had put himself in God's hands to let God work things out. The Bible does not record any prayers David prayed to get his kingdom back. Instead, he endured the trials that he was going through with considerable humility.

For a Christian, there is absolutely no reason to give up hope. Believers always have reason to go on and live responsibly, no matter how difficult their present situation is. Our hope is based on the unchanging nature of Jesus Christ. This is not to make light or cheapen of the salvation Jesus bought with His own blood.

We have to be careful not to build our lives around false hopes. Some Christians hope for change in other people. This may happen and we hope it does – sometimes, however, it does not.

Some people have a false hope and are confident that God will fulfil promises He has never made. We have to be very careful that our hope is not based on a verse of Scripture taken out of context and used for believing whatever we want to believe. God does not promise to rearrange our world to suit our desires.

The Christian's hope must be bound up with God's grace. His free and undeserved favour saves us through faith in what the Lord Jesus did to cancel our sins. God promises to provide us with the strength to handle every situation. In the Bible book of Isaiah, Chapter 40, it says: "Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed."

Did you know that the Christian's loss of hope often comes through prayerlessness? Yes, prayerlessness is a sin. In the hour of trial, it deprives us of the power needed to call on God for His deliverance.

When David escaped from Jerusalem, two of the priests and all the Levites took the Ark of the Covenant of God with them. David, however, sent these priests and the Ark back. Both priests each had a son there, called Ahimaaz and Jonathan. These lads were responsible for bringing news of the rebellion to David, who was waiting back at the Jordan River.

These two young men didn't enter Jerusalem but received a news update through a servant girl. While journeying back to David, they were pursued by Absalom's men. Some kindly people hid the lads in a well until the danger had passed. They then travelled back to David to report the distressing news that all David's people must cross the river that night or they might not survive against Absalom's advancing army.

In today's Bible Adventure, two of David's advisors are mentioned, Ahithophel and Hushai.

Ahithophel was the grandfather of David's wife Bathsheba but he started helping Absalom by advising him to do wicked things against David. This was betrayal. Hushai, on the other hand, was sent back to Jerusalem by David to confuse or counteract any battle advice Absalom might receive. So both these advisors in different ways worked against Absalom's best interests after he had proclaimed himself king and taken over his father's palace.

When Absalom accepted Hushai's battle advice, Ahithophel knew immediately that Absalom would soon be defeated. So he went back to his home town, put his affairs in order and took his own life. Ahithophel reasoned that when David had safely returned to the throne, he would be considered a traitor and punished by death.

Where can we go to get good advice? Firstly, we have to want it. Many people make up their minds on a matter and just want someone else to confirm their decision.

Sometimes when we ask for advice, we already know the answer but wish we didn't.

One writer claims that a good scare is worth more to a person than good advice.

In the Bible book of Proverbs there are many verses of wisdom or wise advice to remember and take to heart. In the practical instructions given in the New Testament book of James, Chapter 1, it says: "If any of you lack wisdom, you should pray to God, who will give it to you; because God gives generously and graciously to all."

Yes, the best advice always is to read God's Word, the Bible, and pray to God about everything.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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