I. “It was the best of times and the worst of times” describes Absalom’s death and the defeat of David’s enemies. The best news as a king was his worst news as a father.

A. Chapter 18 showed the military competence of David.

B. Chapter 18 revealed the fact that ability to lead at the office does not guarantee the same results at home.

II. In Chapter 19 Joab’s voice carries the message of grief observed.

A. David’s military savvy did not translate into political savvy.

1. He compartmentalized as a result of his grief.

2. David’s false hope of reconciliation with his son jeopardized the nation.

III. With the aid of Joab, David puts his life back together.

A. Once the grief was aligned, David’s wisdom and mercy prevailed.

B. Guilt mixed with grief was contagious for the nation.

C. David’s guilt made it impossible for him to turn loose of Absalom.

IV. Past encounters resurface in the chapters which follow.

A. Amasa is recommissioned.

B. Shemei is shown mercy.

C. Mephibosheth and David make peace.

D. Barzillai was made an offer.

E. Sheba incites a rebellion.

F. …and the rest is history.

V. The remainder of 2 Samuel (Chapters 21 – 25) is an appendice.

A. The Gibeonites and the Giants are destroyed.

B. The king reveals his poetic side at the end.

**Great is Thy Faithfulness**

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| **1.** Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.  **2.** Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  Join with all nature in manifold witness  To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. | **3.** Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  ***Refrain***  *Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!*  *Morning by morning, new mercies I see;*  *All I have needed Thy hand hath provided –*  *Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!* |