

## 2 Samuel 16:15--17:14 **Advise of Ahithophel & Hushai to Absalom**

### Hushai came to Absalom

15 Meanwhile Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem; and Ahithophel was with him. 16 And so it was, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!"

17 So Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?"

18 And Hushai said to Absalom, "No, but whom the Lord and this people and all the men of Israel choose, his I will be, and with him I will remain. 19 "Furthermore, whom should I serve? Should I not serve in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father's presence, so will I be in your presence."

### The Advice of Ahithophel

20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give advice as to what we should do."

21 And Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; and all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strong."

22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

23 Now the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. So was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

1 Moreover Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Now let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight. 2 I will come upon him while he is weary and weak, and make him afraid. And all the people who are with him will flee, and I will strike only the king. 3 Then I will bring back all the people to you. When all return except the man whom you seek, all the people will be at peace." 4 And the saying pleased Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

### The Advice of Hushai

5 Then Absalom said, "Now call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he says too." 6 And when Hushai came to Absalom, Absalom spoke to him, saying, "Ahithophel has spoken in this manner. Shall we do as he says? If not, speak up."

7 So Hushai said to Absalom: "The advice that Ahithophel has given is not good at this time. 8 For," said Hushai, "you know your father and his men, that they are mighty men, and they are enraged in their minds, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field; and your father is a man of war, and will not camp with the people. 9 Surely by now he is hidden in some pit, or in some other place. And it will be, when some of them are overthrown at the first, that whoever hears it will say, 'There is a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.' 10 And even he who is valiant, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will melt completely. For all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man, and those who are with him are valiant men."

11 Therefore I advise that all Israel be fully gathered to you, from Dan to Beersheba, like the sand that is by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person. 12 So we will come upon him in some place where he may be found, and we will fall on him as the dew falls on the ground. And of him and all the men who are with him there shall not be left so much as one. 13 Moreover, if he has withdrawn into a city, then all Israel shall bring ropes to that city; and we will pull it into the river, until there is not one small stone found there."

14 So Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Archite is better than the advice of Ahithophel."

For the Lord had purposed to defeat the good advice of Ahithophel, to the intent that the Lord might bring disaster on Absalom.

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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Absalom secretly arranged for the declaration of his reign in Hebron. [2 Samuel 15:10]
- ✧ Openly, Absalom invited 200 men from Jerusalem to accompany him to Hebron to worship the Lord and they went along innocently not knowing anything of the plot in play. [2 Samuel 15:11]
- ✧ While he was offering sacrifices in Hebron, Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor from Giloh. [2 Samuel 15:12]
- ✧ The conspiracy grew strong as the people with Absalom continually increased in number. [2 Samuel 15:12]

Hushai came to Absalom

- ✧ David had sent his friend Hushai back to Jerusalem to overturn the counsel of Ahithophel. [2 Samuel 15:31-37]
- ✧ Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem; and Ahithophel was with him. [2 Samuel 16:15]
- ✧ When Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" [2 Samuel 16:16]
  - ◇ Absalom thought it strange that Hushai would not be with his friend David, but Hushai insisted that he would be loyal to whoever sat on the throne of the kingdom.
  - ◇ The test of this loyalty would be found in the counsel of Hushai compared to the counsel of Ahithophel.

The Advice of Ahithophel [2 Samuel 16:20 – 17:4]

- ✧ And Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; and all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strong." [2 Samuel 16:21]
- ✧ So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. [2 Samuel 16:22]
  - ◇ This fulfilled the words of Nathan the prophet. [2 Samuel 12:11-12]
  - ◇ The counsel of Ahithophel seemed to David and to Absalom as the word directly from God. [2 Samuel 16:23]
- ✧ Concerning the present situation, Ahithophel advised Absalom: [2 Samuel 17:1-3]
  - ◇ Now let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight.
  - ◇ I will come upon him while he is weary and weak, and make him afraid. And all the people who are with him will flee, and I will strike only the king.
  - ◇ Then I will bring back all the people to you.

✧ When all return except the man whom you seek, all the people will be at peace."

✧ And the saying pleased Absalom and all the elders of Israel. [\[2 Samuel 17:4\]](#)

### The Advice of Hushai [\[2 Samuel 17:5-13\]](#)

✧ Absalom called Hushai, told him what Ahithophel had advised and asked him his counsel.

✧ Hushai replied:

✧ "The advice that Ahithophel has given is not good at this time. For," said Hushai, "you know your father and his men, that they are mighty men, and they are enraged in their minds, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field; and your father is a man of war, and will not camp with the people.

Surely by now he is hidden in some pit, or in some other place. And it will be, when some of them are overthrown at the first, that whoever hears it will say, 'There is a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.' And even he who is valiant, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will melt completely. For all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man, and those who are with him are valiant men. [\[2 Samuel 17:7-10\]](#)

✧ Therefore I advise that all Israel be fully gathered to you, from Dan to Beersheba, like the sand that is by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person.

So we will come upon him in some place where he may be found, and we will fall on him as the dew falls on the ground. And of him and all the men who are with him there shall not be left so much as one. Moreover, if he has withdrawn into a city, then all Israel shall bring ropes to that city; and we will pull it into the river, until there is not one small stone found there." [\[2 Samuel 7:11-13\]](#)

✧ So Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Archite is better than the advice of Ahithophel."

For the Lord had purposed to defeat the good advice of Ahithophel, to the intent that the Lord might bring disaster on Absalom. [\[2 Samuel 7:14\]](#)