

2 Samuel 17

King James Version (KJV)

17 Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night: *(This probably would have ended David. He was in no shape to fight back)*

² And I will come upon him while he is weary and weak handed, and will make him afraid: and all the people that are with him shall flee; and I will smite the king only: *(He had totally betrayed David. He probably would have been successful if Absalom had allowed him)*

³ And I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seekest is as if all returned: so all the people shall be in peace. *(Killing David would avoid a civil war. Ahithophel was trying to make a name for himself)*

⁴ And the saying pleased Absalom well, and all the elders of Israel.

⁵ Then said Absalom, Call now Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear likewise what he saith.

⁶ And when Hushai was come to Absalom, Absalom spake unto him, saying, Ahithophel hath spoken after this manner: shall we do after his saying? if not; speak thou.

⁷ And Hushai said unto Absalom, The counsel that Ahithophel hath given is not good at this time. *(Hushai was trying to buy time for David to reorganize his forces or to escape)*

⁸ For, said Hushai, thou knowest thy father and his men, that they be mighty men, and they be chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father is a man of war, and will not lodge with the people. *(David knows to hide himself. He will not be found that easily)*

(Further David is angry as are his men. They will fight back more fiercely than ever. They may have even have laid a trap for you, thinking that you would pursue them)

⁹ Behold, he is hid now in some pit, or in some other place: and it will come to pass, when some of them be overthrown at the first, that whosoever heareth it will say, There is a slaughter among the people

that follow Absalom. (Absalom will be blamed for the failure of his men, if they fail to kill David)

¹⁰ And he also that is valiant, whose heart is as the heart of a lion, shall utterly melt: for all Israel knoweth that thy father is a mighty man, and they which be with him are valiant men. (David and his men had a reputation for being fierce warriors)

(David fighting back fiercely would put fear in the hearts of those who went out to kill him)

¹¹ Therefore I counsel that all Israel be generally gathered unto thee, from Dan even to Beersheba, as the sand that is by the sea for multitude; and that thou go to battle in thine own person. (Use all of Israel and lead them yourself)

(Absalom's ego will side with Hushai against Ahithophel. Absalom would be seen as the conquering hero to the people. Hushai knew that it would take some time to assemble such an army. That would give David time to escape)

¹² So shall we come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will light upon him as the dew falleth on the ground: and of him and of all the men that are with him there shall not be left so much as one. (We will overwhelm him and his men with huge numbers)

¹³ Moreover, if he be gotten into a city, then shall all Israel bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there be not one small stone found there. (Not even a reinforced, walled city can defend against the combined armies of Israel)

¹⁴ And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel. For the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom. (evil = calamity – better translation)

(God didn't anoint Absalom as king. David's prayer has just been answered. The counsel of Ahithophel is seen as foolishness)

¹⁵ Then said Hushai unto Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and thus have I counselled.

¹⁶ Now therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying, Lodge not this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily pass over; lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people that are with him. (This is good advice to David. Pass over the Jordan River while there is time; and disappear among those people)

¹⁷ Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by Enrogel; for they might not be seen to come into the city: and a wench went and told them; and they went and told king David. (Absalom probably suspected that they had sided with David)

(Wench – not the same meaning as the word today; the wench was just a servant to the high priest. These Books were translated into English in 1611)

¹⁸ Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom: but they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bahurim, which had a well in his court; whither they went down. (Bahurim was in the land of Benjamin) (If they had been captured, they would have been executed)

¹⁹ And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known.

²⁰ And when Absalom's servants came to the woman to the house, they said, Where is Ahimaaz and Jonathan? And the woman said unto them, They be gone over the brook of water. And when they had sought and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem. (This took a lot of courage on the woman's part. Had she been found out, they would have killed her)

²¹ And it came to pass, after they were departed, that they came up out of the well, and went and told king David, and said unto David, Arise, and pass quickly over the water: for thus hath Ahithophel counselled against you. (Even if Ahithophel's council was not chosen, Absalom might still launch a quick attack. David isn't taking any chances)

²² Then David arose, and all the people that were with him, and they passed over Jordan: by the morning light there lacked not one of them that was not gone over Jordan. (They all crossed before daylight. It must have been dangerous and difficult. They had their wives and children with them)

²³ And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father. (He probably knew that Hushai's counsel would give David time to get away. Absalom was a fool for following it. If David won the civil war, Ahithophel was as good as dead for betraying him)

²⁴ Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom passed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him. (Absalom has an army. David has his loyal men, but they also have their women and children with them)

NOTE: (When Saul was insane in his last days, David had already been anointed as the next king. David never tried to kill Saul, even when Saul tried to kill him. Here, Absalom, who isn't the true anointed king, is doing his best to murder David – his own father. This guy is no good)

²⁵ And Absalom made Amasa captain of the host instead of Joab: which Amasa was a man's son, whose name was Ithra an Israelite, that went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruiah Joab's mother.

1Chronicles-2:17 (Ithra is called Jether the Ishmaelite. This verse, in Samuel, may be a copyist error. He may have been a sojourner in Israel. That may be why they call him an Israelite, here)

NOTE: (This Abigail was not David's wife. Her father was Nahash. She had the same mother as Zuriyah, David's sister, but a different father. She was Zuriyah's half sister)

²⁶ So Israel and Absalom pitched in the land of Gilead. (On the east side of Jordan)

²⁷ And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim, (Mahanaim was a large fortified city in Ammon)

²⁸ Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched corn, and beans, and lentiles, and parched pulse, (They helped David and his people with supplies)

²⁹ And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat: for they said, The

people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness. (These Ammonites must have been wealthy to be able to spare all of these supplies. They became allies to David in this civil war)