

Hushai's Counsel

17:1 **F**URTHERMORE, Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Please let me choose 12,000 men that I may arise and pursue David tonight. 2 "And ^aI will come upon him while he is weary and ¹exhausted and will terrify him so that all the people who are with him will flee. Then ^bI will strike down the king alone, 3 and I will bring back all the people to you. ¹The return of everyone depends on the man you seek; *then* all the people shall be at ^apeace." 4 So the ¹plan pleased Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

5 Then Absalom said, "Now call ^aHushai the Archite also, and let us hear what ¹he has to say." 6 When Hushai had come to Absalom, Absalom said to ¹him, "Ahithophel has spoken ²thus. Shall we ³carry out his plan? If not, you speak." 7 So Hushai said to Absalom, "^aThis time the advice that Ahithophel has ¹given is not good." 8 Moreover, Hushai said, "You know your father and his men, that they are mighty men and they are ¹fierce, ^alike a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. And your father is an ²expert in warfare, and will not spend the night with the people. 9 "Behold, he has now hidden himself in one of the ¹caves or in another place; and it will be ²when he falls on them at the first attack, that whoever hears *it* will say, 'There has been a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.' 10 "And even the one who is valiant, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, ^awill completely ¹lose heart; for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man and those who are with him are valiant men. 11 "But I counsel that all Israel be surely gathered to you, ^afrom Dan even to Beersheba, ^bas the sand that is by the sea in abundance, and that ¹you personally go into battle. 12 "So we shall come to him in one of the places where he can be found, and we will ¹fall on him ^aas the dew falls on the ground; and of him and of all the men who are with him, not even one will be left. 13 "And if he withdraws into a city, then all Israel shall bring ropes to that city, and we will ^adrag it into the ¹valley until not even a small stone is found there." 14 Then Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel." For ^athe LORD had ordained to thwart the good counsel of Ahithophel, in order that the LORD might bring calamity on Absalom.

Hushai's Warning Saves David

15 Then ^aHushai said to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, "¹This is what Ahithophel counseled Absalom and the elders of Israel, and ¹this is what I have counseled. 16 "Now therefore, send quickly and tell David, saying, ^a"Do not spend the night at the fords of the wilderness, but by all means cross over, lest the king and all the people who are with him be ¹destroyed." 17 ^aNow Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying at ^bEn-rogel, and a maidservant would go and tell them, and they would go and tell King David, for they could not be seen entering the city. 18 But a lad did see them, and told Absalom; so the two of them departed quickly and came to the house of a man ^ain Bahurim, who had a well in his courtyard, and they went down ¹into it. 19 And ^athe woman ¹took a covering and spread it over the well's mouth and scattered grain on it, so that nothing was known. 20 Then Absalom's servants came to the woman at the house and said, "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" And ^athe woman said to them, "They have crossed the brook of water." And when they searched and could not find *them*, they returned to Jerusalem.

21 And it came about after they had departed that they came up out of the well and

went and told King David; and they said to David, “^aArise and cross over the water quickly for thus Ahithophel has counseled against you.” 22 Then David and all the people who *were* with him arose and crossed the Jordan; and by ¹dawn not even one remained who had not crossed the Jordan. 23 Now when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not ¹followed, he ²saddled *his* donkey and arose and went to his home, to ^ahis city, and ³^bset his house in order, and ^cstrangled himself; thus he died and was buried in the grave of his father.

24 Then David came to ^aMahanaim. And Absalom crossed the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him. 25 And Absalom set ^aAmasa over the army in place of Joab. Now Amasa was the son of a man whose name was ¹Ithra the Israelite, who went in to Abigail the daughter of ^bNahash, sister of Zeruiah, Joab’s mother. 26 And Israel and Absalom camped in the land of Gilead.

27 Now when David had come to Mahanaim, Shobi ^athe son of Nahash from ^bRabbah of the sons of Ammon, ^cMachir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and ^dBarzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim, 28 brought ^abeds, basins, pottery, wheat, barley, flour, parched *grain*, beans, lentils, parched *seeds*, 29 honey, curds, sheep, and cheese of the herd, for David and for the people who *were* with him, ^ato eat; for they said, “The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness.”

^a 2 Sam. 16:14

¹ Lit., *slack of hands*

^b 1 Kin. 22:31

¹ Lit., *Like the return of the whole is the man whom you seek*

^a Jer. 6:14

¹ Lit., *word was pleasing in the sight of*

^a 2 Sam. 15:32-34

¹ Lit., *is in his mouth_even he*

¹ Lit., *him, saying*

² Lit., *according to this word*

³ Lit., *do his word*

^a 2 Sam. 16:21

¹ Lit., *advised*

¹ Lit., *bitter of soul*

^a Hos. 13:8

² Lit., *man of war*

¹ Lit., *pits*

² Lit., *according to a falling among them*

^a Josh. 2:9-11

¹ Lit., *melt*

^a 1 Sam. 3:20

^b Gen. 22:17; 1 Sam. 13:5

¹ Lit., *your face go*

¹ Lit., *settle down*

^a Ps. 110:3; Mic. 5:7

^a Mic. 1:6

¹ Or, *wadi*

^a 2 Sam. 15:31, 34; Ps. 9:15, 16

^a 2 Sam. 15:35, 36

¹ Lit., *Thus and thus*

¹ Lit., *Thus and thus*

^a 2 Sam. 15:28

¹ Lit., *swallowed up*

^a 2 Sam. 15:27, 36

^b Josh. 15:7; 18:16

^a 2 Sam. 3:16; 16:5

¹ Lit., *there*

^a Josh. 2:4-6

¹ Lit., *took and spread the covering*

^a Lev. 19:11; Josh. 2:3-5; 1 Sam. 19:12-17

^a 2 Sam. 17:15, 16

¹ Lit., *the light of the morning*

¹ Lit., *done*

² Lit., *bound*

^a 2 Sam. 15:12

³ Lit., *gave charge to*

^b 2 Kin. 20:1

^c Matt. 27:5

^a Gen. 32:2, 10; 2 Sam. 2:8

^a 2 Sam. 19:13; 20:9-12; 1 Kin. 2:5, 32

¹ In 1 Chr. 2:17, *Jether the Ishmaelite*

^b 1 Chr. 2:16

^a 1 Sam. 11:1; 2 Sam. 10:1, 2

^b 2 Sam. 12:26, 29

^c 2 Sam. 9:4

^d 2 Sam. 19:31-39; 1 Kin. 2:7

^a Prov. 11:25; Matt. 5:7

^a 2 Sam. 16:2, 14; Prov. 21:26; Eccl. 11:1; Rom. 12:13

ⁱ *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation)

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