

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 16-17

2 SAMUEL 16:5-8 - SHIMEI "GREETES" DAVID & HIS MEN

V. 5 - BAHURIM WAS A VILLAGE IN BENJAMIN, THE TRIBE/REGION SAUL WAS FROM. SHIMEI IS FROM SAUL'S FAMILY AND A SAUL LOYALIST.

2 SAMUEL 16:9-14 - DAVID'S RESPONSE TO SHIMEI

DAVID IS NOT ANGERED BY SHIMEI'S WORDS. INSTEAD HE IS RESIGNED TO THE LORD'S WILL IN HIS LIFE. IF SHIMEI IS CURSING ON THE LORD'S BEHALF (WHICH WE SEE NO CONFIRMATION OF) THEN LET IT BE. IF NOT, THEN HE IS SIMPLY A FOOL SPEAKING FOOLISHLY. DAVID IS GOING TO IGNORE HIM, AS DIFFICULT AS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN, SINCE HE WAS THROWING ROCKS ALONG WITH HIS INSULTS.

V. 13 - SHIMEI TRAVELS WITH THEM FOR A LITTLE WHILE, CURSING AND THROWING ROCKS THE WHOLE TIME.

V. 14 - DAVID AND HIS MEN ARRIVE AT THE JORDAN RIVER ACCORDING TO THE GREEK VERSION OF THE OT, THE SEPTUAGINT (LXX). THE ESV, NAB, NLT INCLUDE THIS IN THEIR ENGLISH VERSIONS.

2 SAMUEL 16:15-19 - ABSALOM IN JERUSALEM. HUSHAI ACCEPTED AS ADVISOR.

AHITHOPHEL - DAVID'S FORMER CABINET LEVEL ADVISOR WHO HAS SIDED WITH ABSALOM AND LEGITIMIZED ABSALOM'S REBELLION.

2 SAMUEL 15:12 - AND ABSALOM SENT FOR AHITHOPHEL THE GILONITE, DAVID'S COUNSELOR, FROM HIS CITY GILOH, WHILE HE WAS OFFERING THE SACRIFICES. AND THE CONSPIRACY WAS STRONG, FOR THE PEOPLE INCREASED CONTINUALLY WITH ABSALOM.

2 SAMUEL 15:31 - NOW SOMEONE TOLD DAVID, SAYING, "AHITHOPHEL IS AMONG THE CONSPIRATORS WITH ABSALOM." AND DAVID SAID, "O LORD, I PRAY, MAKE THE COUNSEL OF AHITHOPHEL FOOLISHNESS."

HUSHAI THE ARCHITE - DAVID'S FRIEND AND ADVISOR WHO LEAVES DAVID'S BAND TO INFILTRATE THE COUNSELORS OF ABSALOM.

2 SAMUEL 15:34 - "BUT IF YOU (HUSHAI) RETURN TO THE CITY, AND SAY TO ABSALOM, 'I WILL BE YOUR SERVANT, O KING; AS I HAVE BEEN YOUR FATHER'S SERVANT IN TIME PAST, SO I WILL NOW BE YOUR SERVANT,' THEN YOU CAN THWART THE COUNSEL OF AHITHOPHEL FOR ME.

2 SAMUEL 16:20-23 - ABSALOM FOLLOWS AHITHOPHEL'S COUNSEL, HAS "RELATIONS" WITH DAVID'S CONCUBINES

THIS IS A STRANGE AND, FOR US, INAPPROPRIATE ACT. IT WAS A PUBLIC SHOWING OF ABSALOM CLAIMING DAVID'S CONCUBINES AS HIS OWN, ON THE ROOF OF DAVID'S PALACE. ABSALOM IS CLEARLY CLAIMING THE THRONE OF DAVID AND BRAZENLY MAKING THAT STATEMENT.

THIS WAS ONE OF THE PRIMARY WAYS THE PROPHECY OF NATHAN AFTER DAVID'S SIN WITH BATHSHEBA IS FULFILLED. REMEMBER WHAT NATHAN SAID TO DAVID:

2 SAMUEL 12:9-12 - 'WHY HAVE YOU DESPISED THE WORD OF THE LORD BY DOING EVIL IN HIS SIGHT? YOU HAVE STRUCK DOWN URIAH THE HITTITE WITH THE SWORD, HAVE TAKEN HIS WIFE TO BE YOUR WIFE, AND HAVE KILLED HIM WITH THE SWORD OF THE SONS OF AMMON.

10 'NOW THEREFORE, THE SWORD SHALL NEVER DEPART FROM YOUR HOUSE, BECAUSE YOU HAVE DESPISED ME AND HAVE TAKEN THE WIFE OF URIA THE HITTITE TO BE YOUR WIFE.' 11 "THUS SAYS THE LORD, 'BEHOLD, I WILL RAISE UP EVIL AGAINST YOU FROM YOUR OWN HOUSEHOLD: I WILL EVEN TAKE YOUR WIVES BEFORE YOUR EYES AND GIVE THEM TO YOUR COMPANION, AND HE WILL LIE WITH YOUR WIVES IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. 12 'INDEED YOU DID IT SECRETLY, BUT I WILL DO THIS THING BEFORE ALL ISRAEL, AND UNDER THE SUN.'"

IN A STRANGE WAY, THE SHOCKING AND DISGUSTING ACT OF ABSALOM GIVES DAVID, AND THE READER GENERATIONS LATER, A SENSE OF THE WAY GOD MUST HAVE VIEWED DAVID'S SIN AGAINST URIA AND WITH BATHSHEBA. WE OFTEN LOOK AT OTHER'S SIN AS REPULSIVE AND WRONG AND EVIL - YET WE EXCUSE, RATIONALIZE AND WHITEWASH OUR OWN SINS AGAINST GOD. IN REALITY, THE STENCH OF SIN IS AS POTENT FROM OUR LIVES TO GOD, EVEN WHEN IN SECRET, AS SOMEONE ELSE'S PUBLIC AND OPEN SIN MIGHT BE TO US. DAVID IS LEARNING THIS LESSON FIRSTHAND, PERHAPS WE CAN LEARN IT SECONDHAND THROUGH THIS STORY.

2 SAMUEL 17:1-14 - TWO DIFFERENT COUNSELORS, WHICH ONE WILL THE KING HEED?

V. 1-4 - AHITHOPHEL'S COUNSEL IS FOR ABSALOM TO ATTACK DAVID WITH A LARGE BAND (12,000 MEN) IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. THIS PLAN IS DESIGNED TO SCARE OFF THE SMALL GROUP OF LOYALISTS TO DAVID AND LEAVING DAVID ALONE TO BE KILLED. THIS PLAN PLEASURES ABSALOM AND THE OTHER ELDERS OF ISRAEL (V. 4)

V. 5-13 - INTERESTINGLY, ABSALOM CALLS FOR HUSHAI TO GIVE HIS ADVICE, EVEN AFTER BEING PLEASED WITH AHITHOPHEL'S PLAN. HUSHAI DISCOURAGES AHITHOPHEL'S IDEA FOR A FEW REASONS. FIRST, HE REMINDS ABSALOM THAT DAVID IS AN EXPERIENCED SOLDIER. HE SUGGESTS THAT DAVID WOULD NOT BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO SLEEP WITH THE LARGER GROUP OF CITIZENS WHO HAVE JOINED HIM. SECONDLY, DAVID AND HIS MEN ARE INCREDIBLY SKILLED AND WOULD NOT FLEE FROM A FIGHT, EVEN IF OUTNUMBERED. IT IS LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD IN FACT HAVE SUCCESS AGAINST ABSALOM'S TROOPS AND AS WORD TRAVELED THAT DAVID HAD A VICTORY, EVEN IF A SMALL ONE, THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE WOULD BE ENDEARED TO DAVID AS A RESULT. HUSHAI SUGGEST ABSALOM GATHER THE ENTIRE ARMY OF ISRAEL AGAINST DAVID AND THAT ABSALOM LEAD THEM PERSONALLY (V. 11). IF HE IS GOING TO BE THE NEW LEADER AND KING, HE SHOULD LEAD AS ONE.

THE PLAN OF HUSHAI IS FOUND MORE FAVORABLE TO ABSALOM. IN A SENSE HUSHAI APPEALS TO TO ABSALOM'S INSECURITY (HE'S NOT AS SKILLED AS HIS FATHER/THE PEOPLE MIGHT TURN ON HIM) AND HIS PRIDE (LEAD THE ARMY YOURSELF). HE IS ALSO SUGGESTING A PLAN THAT WILL TAKE MORE TIME TO PULL TOGETHER, THUS GIVING DAVID MORE TIME TO RESPOND.

POLITICALLY SPEAKING AHITHOPHEL'S ADVICE WAS GOOD.

"AHITHOPHEL MAKES THE VERY SOUND PROPOSAL TO ATTACK AND KILL DAVID IMMEDIATELY. WITH NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO, HE SAYS, THE WHOLE COUNTRY WOULD EMBRACE ABSALOM. IF THIS "GOOD COUNSEL" (V. 14) HAD BEEN FOLLOWED, IT IS LIKELY THAT DAVID, WHOSE LARGE GROUP WAS INDEED WEARY AND DISCOURAGED(17:2 & 16:14), WOULD HAVE BEEN DEFEATED" (ESV STUDY BIBLE, 2 SAM 17:1-23)"

2 SAMUEL 17:15-16 - WORD SENT TO DAVID VIA LOYAL PRIESTS THROUGH HUSHAI

2 SAMUEL 17:17-22 - SPIES SPOTTED. SPIES HIDE. WORD REACHES DAVID.

2 SAMUEL 17:23 - AHITHOPHEL'S SUICIDE

CLEARLY AHITHOPHEL'S IDENTITY WAS WRAPPED UP IN HIS POSITION. HE IS NOT REBUKED OR PUNISHED FOR HAVING A DIFFERENT PLAN FOR THE KING TO FOLLOW, BUT HE IS SO DEVASTATED BY ABSALOM NOT GOING WITH HIS ADVICE, THAT IT LEADS HIM TO DEATH.

2 SAMUEL 17:24-29 - DAVID AND ABSALOM ON A COLLISION COURSE. THE LORD PROVIDES FOR DAVID, THIS TIME THROUGH FOREIGN ALLIES