

II SAMUEL 17; May 2; Absalom's Opposing Counselors

ANALYSIS:

1. What counsel did Ahithophel give Absalom so he could defeat David and take the kingdom? _____
2. How was Hushai's counsel different? _____
3. How did Jonathan and Ahimaaz escape capture by Absalom's servants when they were carrying a message to David? _____
4. What happened to Ahithophel? _____
5. Whom did Absalom appoint as captain of the men of Israel?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

If Absalom had immediately followed the counsel of Ahithophel and pursued David in his disorganized state, he would, no doubt, have given the victory to Absalom. However, Hushai's grandiose plan appealed to the vanity of Absalom, which resulted in giving David time to cross the Jordan in safety. Thus the LORD answered David's prayer of turning the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness (15:31). It also resulted in putting Absalom into the battle where he was killed, thus ending his rebellion.

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Pro 16:18). Let us hate pride and seek the wise counsel of godly saints.

Jonathan and Ahimaaz were saved from capture by Absalom's men by a woman's application of the art of camouflage. She made the mouth of the well, in which the two messengers were hiding, look natural to her courtyard. And by spreading ground corn on the covering she kept anyone from stepping on or moving the covering and thus discovering the well and the men.

HELP:

1. Let Ahithophel choose 12,000 men and immediately pursue and smite the king (vs 1-2).
2. Let all Israel be gathered together generally and let Absalom lead them into battle to defeat the king (vs 11-13).
3. They hid in a well which was cunningly hidden by ground corn spread on the covering (vs 18-19).
4. When his counsel was not followed, he went home, put his household in order, and hanged himself (23).
5. Amasa (v 25).