

Hushai and Ahithophel (c. 974 BC)

2 Samuel 16:15–17:26

Ahithophel Gives Absalom Wise Advice

16:15 Then Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, entered Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.

16 Now it came about when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "*Long live the king! Long live the king!*"

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

18 Then Hushai said to Absalom, "No! For whom the LORD, this people, and all the men of Israel have chosen, his I will be, and with him I will remain.

19 Besides, whom should I serve? *Should I not serve* in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father's presence, so I will be in your presence."

20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your advice. What shall we do?"

21 Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself odious to your father. The hands of all who are with you will also be strengthened."

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

23 The advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, *was* as if one inquired of the word of God; so was all the advice of Ahithophel *regarded* by both David and Absalom.

17:1 Furthermore, Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Please let me choose 12,000 men that I may arise and pursue David tonight.

2 I will come upon him while he is weary and exhausted and terrify him, so that all the people who are with him will flee. Then I will strike down the king alone,

3 and I will bring back all the people to you. The return of everyone depends on the man you seek; *then* all the people will be at peace."

4 So the plan pleased Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

God Helps Hushai Frustrate the Wise Advice of Ahithophel

5 Then Absalom said, "Now call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he has to say."

6 When Hushai had come to Absalom, Absalom said to him, "Ahithophel has spoken thus. Shall we carry out his plan? If not, you speak."

7 So Hushai said to Absalom, "This time the advice that Ahithophel has given is not good."

8 Moreover, Hushai said, "You know your father and his men, that they are mighty men and they are fierce, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. And your father is an expert in warfare, and will not spend the night with the people.

9 Behold, he has now hidden himself in one of the caves or in another place; and it will be when 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, will completely lose 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, from Dan even to Beersheba, as the sand that is by the sea in abundance, and that you personally go into battle.

12 So we shall come to him in one of the places where he can be found, and we will fall on him as 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 If he withdraws into a city, then all Israel shall bring ropes to that city, and we will drag it into the valley 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 the LORD had ordained to thwart the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the LORD might bring calamity on Absalom.

Hushai Sends Word to David

15 Then Hushai said to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, “This is what Ahithophel counseled Absalom and the elders of Israel, and this is what I have counseled.

16 Now therefore, send quickly and tell David, saying, ‘Do not spend the night at the fords of the wilderness, but by all means cross over, or else the king and all the people who are with him will be destroyed.’”

17 Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying at En-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 in Bahurim, who had a well in his courtyard, and they went down into it.

19 And the woman took 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 the 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 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, “Arise 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 dawn not even one remained who had not crossed the Jordan.

Ahithophel Foresees Disaster and Hangs Himself

23 Now when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled *his* donkey and arose and went to his home, to his city, and set his house in order, and strangled himself; thus he died and was buried in the grave of his father.

Absalom Begins His Pursuit of David

24 Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom crossed the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

25 Absalom set Amasa over the army in place of Joab. Now Amasa was the son of a man whose name was Ithra the Israelite, who went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruah, Joab’s mother.

26 And Israel and Absalom camped in the land of Gilead.

My Soul Pants for You, O God (c. 974 BC)

Psalm 42

For the choir director.

A Maskil of the sons of Korah.

- 1 As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So my soul pants for You, O God.
- 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God;
When shall I come and appear before God?
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night,
While *they* say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”
- 4 These things I remember and I pour out my soul within me.
For I used to go along with the throng *and* lead them in procession to the house of God,
With the voice of joy and thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

- 5 Why are you in despair, O my soul?
And *why* have you become disturbed within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him
For the help of His presence.
- 6 O my God, my soul is in despair within me;
Therefore I remember You from the land of the Jordan
And the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.
- 7 Deep calls to deep at the sound of Your waterfalls;
All Your breakers and Your waves have rolled over me.
- 8 The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime;
And His song will be with me in the night,
A prayer to the God of my life.
- 9 I will say to God my rock, “Why have You forgotten me?
Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”
- 10 As a shattering of my bones, my adversaries revile me,
While they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”
- 11 Why are you in despair, O my soul?
And why have you become disturbed within me?
Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him,
The help of my countenance and my God.

Vindicate Me, O God (c. 974 BC)

Psalm 43

- 1 Vindicate me, O God, and plead my case against an ungodly nation;
O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!
- 2 For You are the God of my strength; why have You rejected me?
Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?
- 3 O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me;
Let them bring me to Your holy hill
And to Your dwelling places.
- 4 Then I will go to the altar of God,
To God my exceeding joy;
And upon the lyre I shall praise You, O God, my God.
- 5 Why are you in despair, O my soul?
And why are you disturbed within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him,
The help of my countenance and my God.

Hear My Cry, O God (c. 974 BC)

Psalm 61

For the choir director; on a stringed instrument.

A Psalm of David.

- 1 Hear my cry, O God;
Give heed to my prayer.
- 2 From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint;
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
- 3 For You have been a refuge for me,

- A tower of strength against the enemy.
- 4 Let me dwell in Your tent forever;
Let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings. *Selah.*
- 5 For You have heard my vows, O God;
You have given *me* the inheritance of those who fear Your name.
- 6 You will prolong the king's life;
His years will be as many generations.
- 7 He will abide before God forever;
Appoint lovingkindness and truth that they may preserve him.
- 8 So I will sing praise to Your name forever,
That I may pay my vows day by day.

My Soul Thirsts For You (c. 974 BC)

Psalm 63

A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

- 1 O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;
My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- 2 Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary,
To see Your power and Your glory.
- 3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,
My lips will praise You.
- 4 So I will bless You as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands in Your name.
- 5 My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness,
And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.
- 6 When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You in the night watches,
- 7 For You have been my help,
And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.
- 8 My soul clings to You;
Your right hand upholds me.
- 9 But those who seek my life to destroy it,
Will go into the depths of the earth.
- 10 They will be delivered over to the power of the sword;
They will be a prey for foxes.
- 11 But the king will rejoice in God;
Everyone who swears by Him will glory,
For the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped.

David Refreshed at Mahanaim (c. 974 BC)

2 Samuel 17:27–29

- 27 Now when David had come to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the sons of Ammon,
Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim,
28 brought beds, 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, to eat; for
they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness."

The LORD Is My Shepherd (c. 974 BC)

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
- 3 He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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