

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 17–19 | “The Death of Absalom”

I. ABSALOM’S COUNSEL. (17)

AHITHOPHEL’S COUNSEL (v. 1-4)

HUSHAI’S COUNTER-COUNSEL (v. 5-14)

A. (v. 14)

1. ***“...For the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom.”***

a. *“for the LORD had appointed”*

1) God is sovereign, and His plans will be accomplished. He is always working behind the scenes to work out His purposes.

a) We might not always see what He is doing on the surface, but His purposes will be accomplished.

THE REPORT TO DAVID (v. 15-22)

THE SUICIDE OF AHITHOPHEL (v. 23)

B. (v. 23)

1. ***“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.”***

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 17–19 | “The Death of Absalom”

- a. Suicide is never the solution. I think that suicide is one of the cruelest things that a person can do because it creates guilt feelings on all who are left.

DAVID AND ABSALOM IN THE TRANSJORDAN (v. 24-29)

C. (v. 24)

1. **“Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom passed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.”**

- a. “Mahanaim” - Heb. “two hosts; two camps”
 - 1) Named by Jacob. ([Genesis 32:2](#))
 - a) This was the place where the angels of God met Jacob after his confrontation with Laban, so Jacob named it *Mahanaim*.
 - b) It was from there that Jacob sent messengers to Esau to try and calm things down as he returned home.
 - 2) Border town between the tribes of Manasseh and Gad. ([Joshua 13:26, 30](#))
 - 3) It was the place where earlier, Ishbosheth was crowned king and became the capital of Israel. ([2 Samuel 2:8](#))
 - 4) It was the city to which David is now fleeing from Absalom. ([2 Samuel 17:24, 27](#))
 - 5) It will be made the district capital under Solomon. ([1 Kings 4:14](#))

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 17–19 | “The Death of Absalom”

D. (v. 25)

1. **“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.”**

a. “Amasa”

1) Chief General of Absalom.

2) The son of *Ithra an Israelite* and *Abigail*.

a) *Ithra* is also called “*Jether the Ishmeelite*” (1 Chron. 2:17), probably because he was a Jew living among the Ishmeelites.

b) **NOTE:** This makes *Amasa* David’s nephew and Joab’s cousin.

b. “*Abigail, the daughter of Nahash*”

1) *Nahash* is either:

a) Another name for Jesse.

b) Or, the previous husband of David’s mother before Jesse which would have died.

E. (v. 27)

1. **“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,”**

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 17–19 | “The Death of Absalom”

- a. “Shobi”
 - 1) He was probably the brother of Hanun that insulted David (2 Sam. 10:1-4), and apparently after David defeated Hanun, he appointed Shobi to be the new king of the children of Ammon.

- b. “Machir”
 - 1) He was the former host of Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 9:4).

- c. “Barzillai”
 - 1) We’ll see more about him later (2 Sam. 19:31-39).

I. THE DEATH OF ABSALOM. (18)

THE ORGANIZATION OF DAVID’S ARMY (v. 1-5)

THE BATTLE (v. 6-8)

THE DEATH OF ABSALOM (v. 9-15)

A. (v. 9)

- 1. ***“And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught***

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 17–19 | “The Death of Absalom”

hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.”

a. *“his head caught hold of the oak”*

1) Absalom is riding his mule at full speed ahead, and his *head* got caught on a great oak!

a) **NOTE:** It says that his **head** caught hold of the oak, but this could have been because of his really thick hair (2 Sam. 14:25-26)!

B. (v. 14)

1. “Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.”

a. *“darts” - Heb. “spears”*

b. *“through the heart”*

1) It’s as though the Lord is bringing this judgment (2 Sam. 17:14) to the *heart* of Absalom because he “stole the hearts of the people” (2 Sam. 15:6).

C. (v. 15)

1. “And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.”

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 17–19 | “The Death of Absalom”

- a. Some rabbis see the “ten” young men that killed him because he had taken David’s ten concubines and went in unto them in front of the whole nation (2 Sam. 15:16; 16:22).

THE BURIAL OF ABSALOM (v. 16-18)

D. (v. 18)

1. ***“Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which is in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom's place.”***

a. “I have no son”

1) Absalom had 3 sons (2 Sam. 14:27), so either:

a) His sons have all died by this time.

b) Or, he set up the pillar before he had children.

i. The Text says that he built this pillar “in his lifetime,” it just doesn’t say when.

THE REPORT TO DAVID (v. 19-33)

E. (v. 22)

1. ***“Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cushi. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready?”***

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 17–19 | “The Death of Absalom”

- a. Ahimaaz was a man that could run, but didn’t have a message!
 - 1) Sadly, there are too many ministers today that know how to run and get things done, but they don’t have a message!

I. DAVID’S RETURN. (19)

DAVID’S MOURNING OVER ABSALOM (v. 1-4)

JOAB’S REPROOF (v. 5-7)

DAVID’S ACCEPTANCE BY ISRAEL (v. 8-10)

DAVID’S ACCEPTANCE BY JUDAH (v. 11-15)

A. (v. 13)

- 1. ***“And say ye to Amasa, Art thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab.”***

- a. It seems that David must have heard what Joab did to Absalom by this point. He is now making Amasa his chief General.

THE CONFESSION OF SHIMEI (v. 16-23)

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 17–19 | “The Death of Absalom”

B. (v. 16)

1. **“And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, which was of Bahurim, hasted and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David.”**

- a. *Shimei* was the guy that cursed David and cast stones at him when he came into Bahurim (2 Sam. 16:5-6).

MEPHIBOSHETH AND ZIBA (v. 24-30)

THE SEPERATION FROM BARZILLAI (v. 31-39)

THE STRIFE BETWEEN JUDAH AND ISRAEL (v. 40-43)