

24 – ON THE RUN (2 SAMUEL 17:1-18:33)

I. Further Counsel (2 Samuel 17:1-14)

A. Ahithophel's Counsel (17:1-4)

- Ahithophel asked for 12,000 men to pursue David that evening.
- The sudden attack while David is weak will cause the people to flee David.
- At that point, he will kill David and he will return with the people.
- This advice pleased Absalom and the elders of Israel.

B. Hushai's Counsel (17:5-13)

- Absalom called for Hushai to give his counsel if Ahithophel was wrong.
- Hushai stated that Ahithophel's advice was not good.
- He stated that David and his mighty men would be enraged and not with the people.
- The men sent for David would be surely defeated and that would not reflect well on Absalom.
- He recommended the entire army be gathered to Absalom as he leads the battle against David.
- Then the battle will overwhelm David with his mighty men and no one will survive.

C. Absalom's Decision (17:14)

- Absalom and the men of Israel felt Hushai's counsel was better than Ahithophel's advice.
- The Lord purposed to defeat Ahithophel's counsel in order to bring Absalom to destruction.

II. The Warning for David (2 Samuel 17:15-22)

A. Hushai Informs the Priests (17:15-16)

- Hushai informed Zadok and Abiathar concerning the advice given to Absalom.
- Hushai wanted to send a message to David telling him to crossover or he will be overrun.

B. The Priests' Sons (17:17-20)

- Zadok and Abiathar's sons could not be seen coming into the city.
- A female servant was sent to tell them the message to bring to David.

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- A lad saw them and told Absalom, which resulted in their fleeing.
- They came to a man's house and hid in the courtyard well.
- A woman spread a covering over the well and spread grain on it to conceal them.
- When Absalom's men came searching for the men, woman stated they had crossed over.
- When they could not find them, Absalom's men returned to Jerusalem.

C. David Informed (17:21-22)

- When they came to David, they told him to crossover because of Ahithophel's advice.
- David and the people crossed over the Jordan and by morning no one was left.

III. Preparations for Battle (2 Samuel 17:23-29)

A. Ahithophel's Death (17:23)

- When his advice was not taken, Ahithophel returned to his home.
- He set his household in order and then hanged himself.

B. Absalom's Preparations (17:24-29)

- Absalom crossed over the Jordan with the army of Israel.
- Absalom made Amasa commander of the Army in place of Joab.
- Amasa was distant relative of Joab's mother.
- Absalom and the army encamped in the land of Gilead.
- David was provided with food supplies and bedding by supportive friends.

IV. The Battle with Absalom (2 Samuel 18:1-33)

A. David's Preparations (18:1-5)

- David numbered the people with him and set commanders over them.
- He divided his men between Joab, Abishai and Ittai.
- David wanted to go with them, but they insisted that he remain because he was important.
- David told the commanders to deal gently with Absalom as all the people listened.

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- So David remained in the stronghold as his men went to battle.

B. Absalom's Defeat (18:6-8)

- The two armies met in the woods of Ephraim and David's army prevailed.
- The army of Israel was defeated by David's men as 20,000 were slaughtered.
- The writer points out that more were killed by the woods than by the sword.

C. Absalom is Killed (18:9-15)

- Absalom became entangled in a tree by his hair and was left hanging by his mule.
- Someone saw Absalom hanging by his hair and told Joab.
- Joab asked if the man killed Absalom, stating that he would have been rewarded.
- The man refused to kill Absalom because of the king's wishes and he feared for his life.
- Joab then took three spears and personally killed Absalom as he hung in the tree.

D. Absalom's Burial (18:16-18)

- Joab blew the horn and recalled his troops from pursuing Absalom's forces in battle.
- They threw Absalom's body into a pit and heaped rocks over it as Israel fled.
- The writer points out that Absalom once set up a pillar to memorialize himself.

E. News of Absalom's Death (18:19-33)

- Ahimaaz, son of Zadok, wanted to bring David the news of the victory.
- Joab refused his request because the king's son was dead and sent a Cushite.
- After the Cushite left, Ahimaaz still wanted to run to David.
- Joab allowed him to run to David and he outran the Cushite.
- Ahimaaz arrived first and told David of the victory, but he did not know of Absalom.
- The Cushite arrived and when asked about Absalom, reported that he was dead.
- David was deeply moved by the news of Absalom's death and mourned his son.