

LESSON 7: THE REBELLION ENDS

HOMEWORK

2nd Samuel: Chapters 17-18

Directions: Use your Study Bible, the internet, or any other study source to help you with these questions.

1. Read 2nd Samuel 17:1-23
 - How did people view Ahithophel's advice?
 - Explain Ahithophel's advice to Absalom?
 - Did Ahithophel have a motive for his plan?
2. Absalom listens to Hushai's plan.
 - What advice did Hushai give to Absalom?
 - Did Hushai have a motive for his plan?
 - Whose plan did Absalom take?
3. Read 2nd Samuel 17:24-29
 - Explain the significance of Mahanaim?
 - Why do you think the people of Mahanaim helped David?
Remember Ish-bosheth had reigned in Mahanaim. How did David react after hearing about Ish-bosheth's murder (2nd Samuel 4:12)?
 - How did Shobi, Machir, and Barzillai help David?
4. Read 2nd Samuel 18:1-23
 - Among what three men did David divide his army?
 - What specific orders did David give his commanders?
 - What happened to Absalom while riding his mule?
5. Joab hears of Absalom's predicament.
 - What did Joab do to Absalom?
 - How did Joab bury Absalom?
 - How did David react after Absalom's death?

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2ND SAMUEL CHAPTERS 17-18

CHAPTER 17: DAVID FLEES FROM ABSALOM

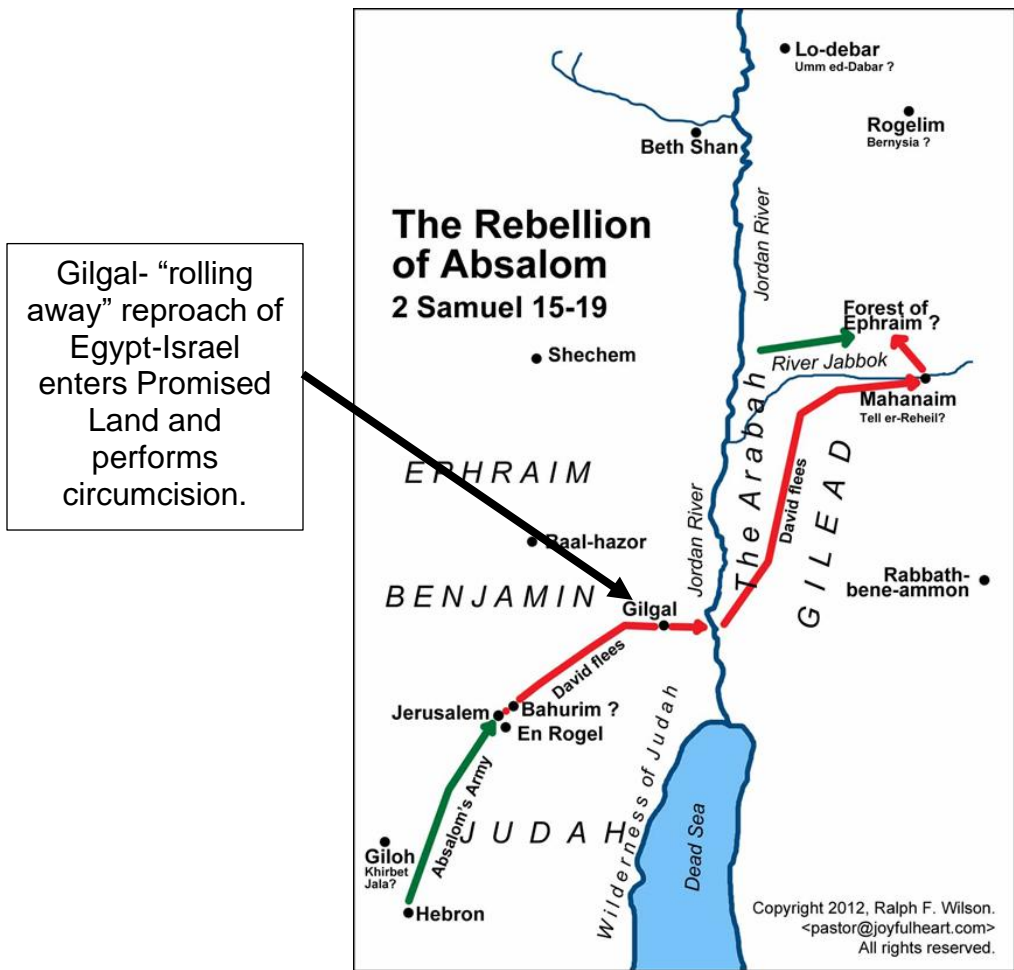
Vs. 1-23: Ahithophel and Hushai Give Absalom Contradictory Advice



<https://artcloud.market/art/david-in-flight-from-absalom-by-rg-jones>

- People knew Ahithophel, the grandfather of Bathsheba, “as if one inquired of the word of God.” Unfortunately, **resentment** and **pride** caused his downfall.
- Eliam, Ahithophel’s son and Bathsheba’s father, ranked as one of David’s mighty men. Uriah-Bathsheba’s husband also ranked as one of David’s mighty men.
- Ahithophel, as a first step in resentment, attached himself to Absalom.

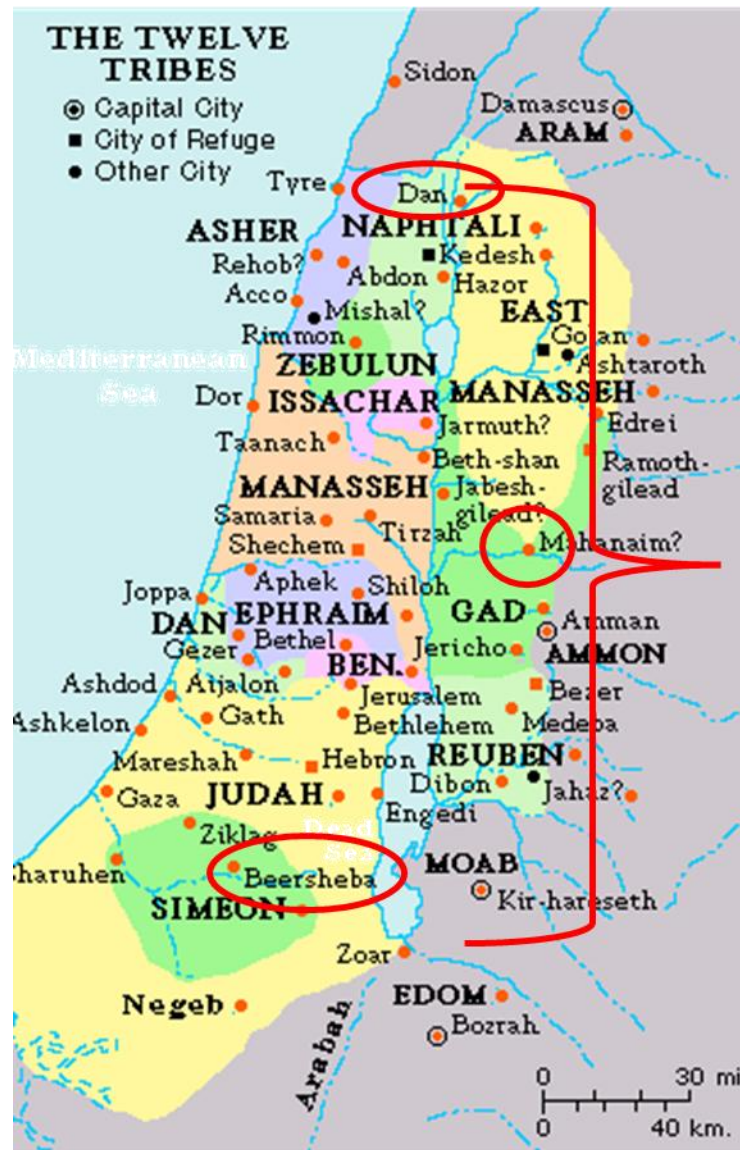
- After attaching himself to Absalom, Ahithophel persuaded Absalom to let him lead a 12,000-man army against David. Ahithophel apparently wanted the glory of battle and revenge against David.
- Ahithophel told Absalom he would attack David while his men remained weary and exhausted.
- Ahithophel said he would kill David and bring the kingdom back to Absalom. At first, this plan pleased Absalom.



http://www.jesuswalk.com/david/life_of_david_maps_and_graphics.htm

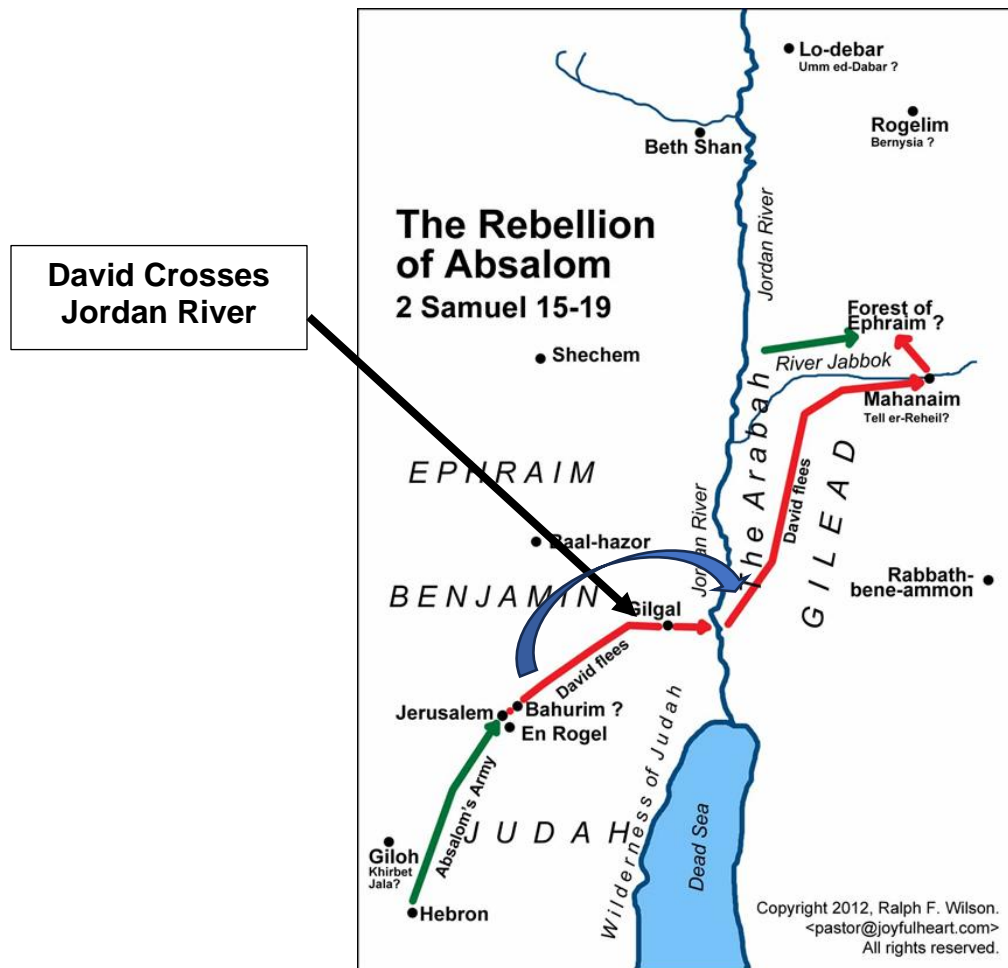
- Absalom wanted a second opinion, so he asked **Hushai** for his advice. Hushai, the spy for David and David's official counselor, gave Absalom another plan.

- David had prayed God would make **foolish** the council of Ahithophel. (2 Samuel 15:31-32).
- Hushai wanted to give David time to prepare for war and to play on Absalom's pride.
- Hushai recommended that Absalom gather all the men from Dan to Beersheba and lead the army into battle. Hushai advised Absalom to bring ropes to tear down the walls of any city in which David might hide.



<http://jewishhistory2015.blogspot.com/2015/08/the-1920-san-remo-conference-jewish.html>

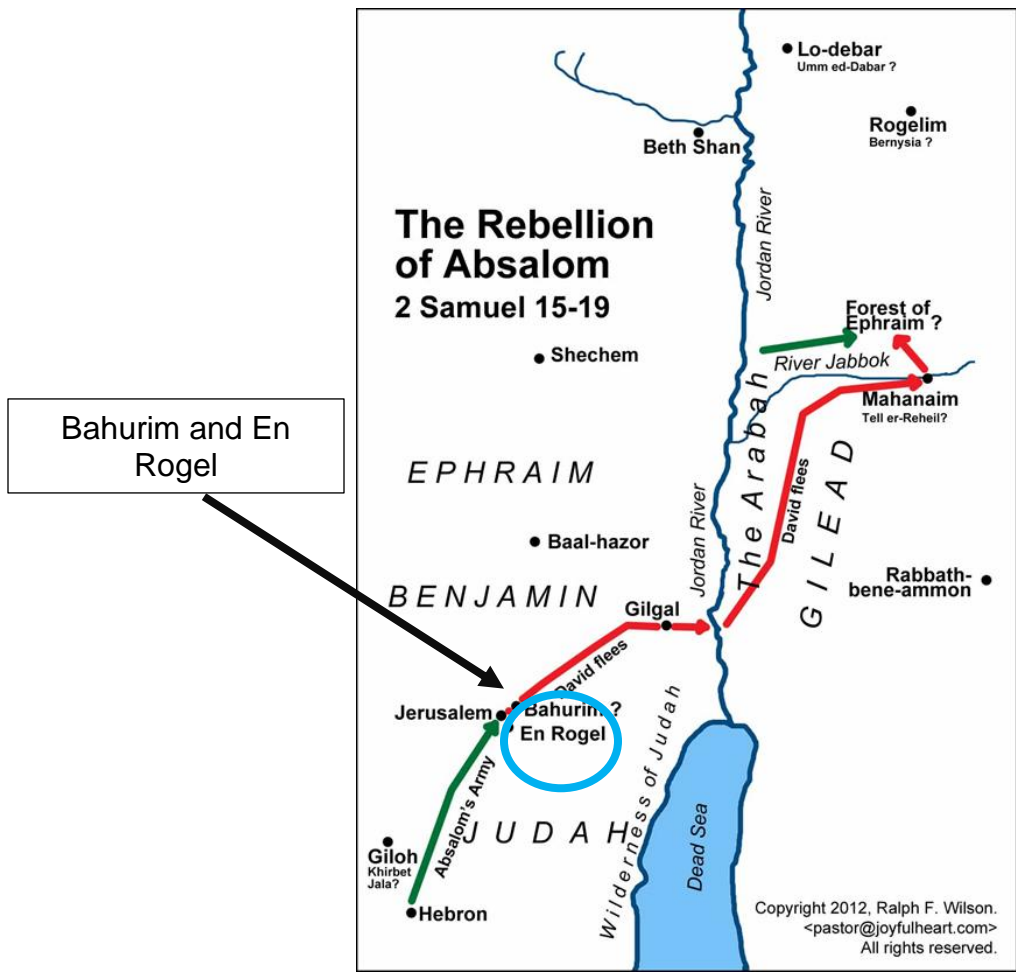
- Absalom **accepted** Hushai's plan over Ahithophel's.
- As Hushai spied for David, he went to **Zadok** and **Abiathar** the priests and told them not to have David spend the night on the west side of the Jordan but on the east side.
- Hushai wanted to ensure David's safety in case Absalom changed his mind and followed Ahithophel's advice.
- Zadok and Abiathar passed the message on to their sons, **Jonathan** and **Ahimaaz** at En-rogel. They received the message by way of a maidservant. However, a young boy saw the transaction and told Absalom.



David Crosses Jordan River

http://www.jesuswalk.com/david/life_of_david_maps_and_graphics.htm

- Realizing Absalom knew of the plot, Jonathan and Ahimaaz fled En-rogel and came to a man in Bahurim who hid them in his well. Absalom's servants left since they could not find Jonathan and Ahimaaz.

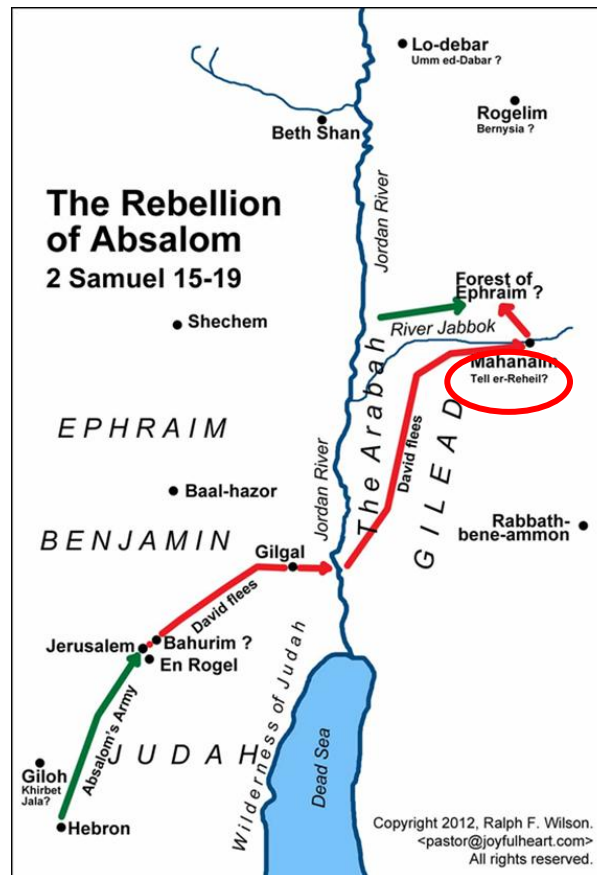


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- After their departure, Jonathan and Ahimaaz told David to cross over to the east side of the Jordan River.
- When Ahithophel realized Absalom did not follow his counsel, he saddled his donkey, went home, got his house in order, and **strangled** himself.
- Ahithophel's demise demonstrates what anger, revenge, and pride can do to a person.

Vs. 24-29: David Crosses the Jordan

- David came to **Mahanaim** (Mahanaim (ma-ha-naim means double camp-the angels' camp and Jacob's camp prior to wrestling with the angel) while Absalom crossed over the Jordan River.



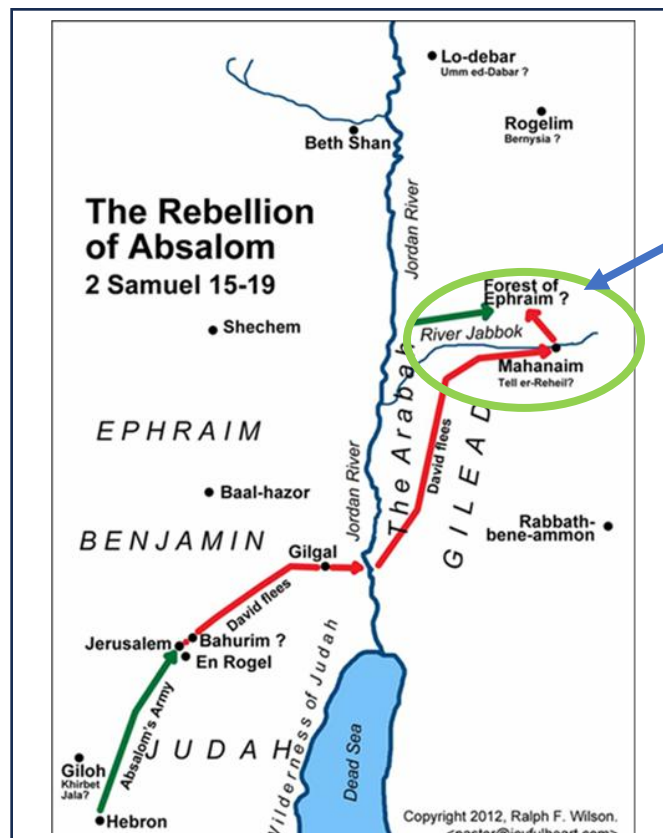
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- Ish-bosheth reigned over Israel in Mahanaim, a city in Gilead, for two years. Apparently, the people of Mahanaim showed David kindness since he had given respect after Ish-bosheth's murder. God met Jacob in Mahanaim after leaving Paddan-aram with Rachel and Leah (Genesis 32:1-2; 9-10).
- Absalom also crossed the Jordan river with his army.
- When David arrived in Mahanaim, Shobi, Machir, and **Barzillai** brought food and supplies to David and his men. Machir took care of Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, while Jonathan and Saul fought the Philistines (2 Samuel 9:3-5).

CHAPTER 18: ABSALOM DIES IN BATTLE

Vs. 1-33-David Warns His Commanders

- David divided his army among Joab, Abishai, and **Ittai** (2 Samuel 15:19-22).
- The people would not let David go out to battle and convinced him to remain in the city (Mahanaim).
- As the armies left the city, David gave specific orders to Joab, Abishai, and Ittai not to **kill or harm** Absalom.
- The two armies met in the treacherous forest of Ephraim, north of the **Jabbok** River.



http://www.jesuswalk.com/david/life_of_david_maps_and_graphics.htm

- More soldiers died due to the harshness of the terrain than they did from the sword.
- David's army defeated Absalom, and 20,000 men died.



<http://markalburger2009.blogspot.com/2009/04/april-5.html>

- While Absalom rode his mule, his head got **caught** in the branches of an oak tree- suspending him in the air.
- An informer told Joab of Absalom's situation. Joab rebuked the informer for not killing Absalom. The man said he would not defy David's orders.
- Joab took three spears and **killed** Absalom. Not only did Joab strike Absalom but ten of Joab's young armor bearers struck him.
- Joab blew his trumpet and recalled the army. He took Absalom's body, dug a deep pit, threw the body in the pit, and covered it with stones. Conquerors used this type of burial for criminals or enemies.
- Prior to this, Absalom had set up a **monument** for himself (probably in the Kidron Valley-just east of Jerusalem). A present-day "pillar of Absalom"

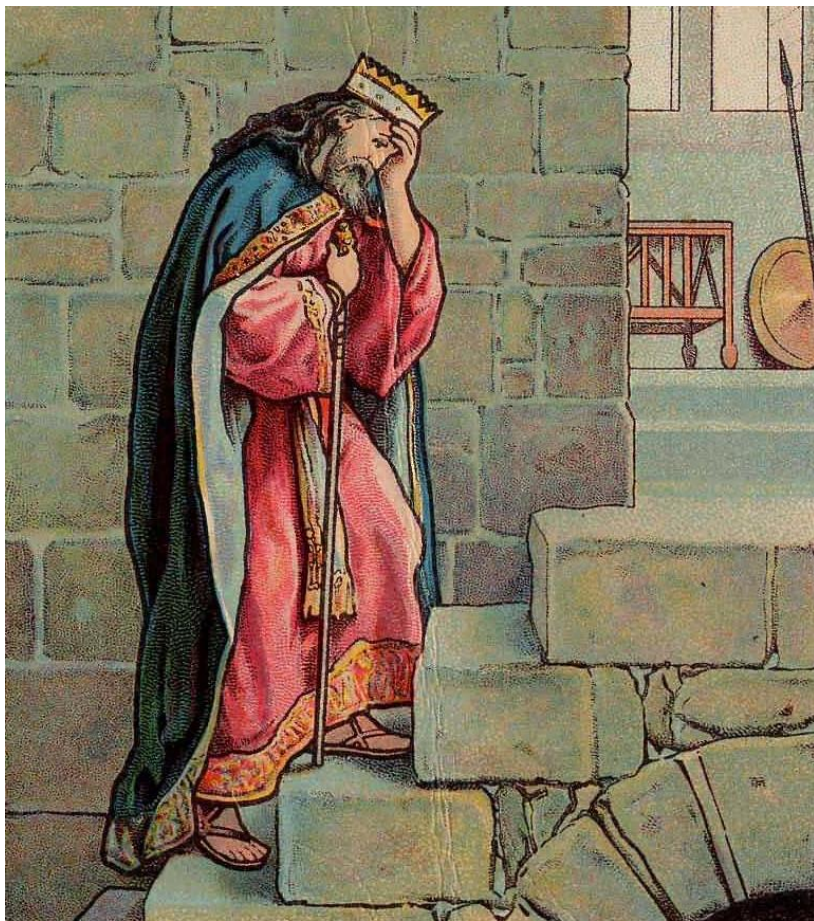
stands in the Kidron Valley. Though not the original monument, it might stand in the same spot as Absalom's.



<https://dwellingintheword.wordpress.com/2010/11/02/392-2-samuel/>

- Apparently, Absalom's sons had died.
- **Ahimaaz**, the son of Zadok, asked Joab for permission to tell David they had won the battle. Joab sent a Cushite instead (Cush was the area south of Egypt).
- After the Cushite left, Ahimaaz pleaded with Joab to let him give David the news. Joab gave him permission and he outran the Cushite.
- When David heard that Ahimaaz ran toward the gate, he believed Ahimaaz brought **good** news.

- Ahimaaz told David that he had won the battle but did not relay that Absalom had died.
- The Cushite arrived shortly after, and he also told David of the victory.
- David asked about Absalom and the Cushite gave a vague answer concerning Absalom's death.
- David, deeply **grieved**, went up to the chamber over the gate and wept.
- Scripture records the phrase five times "my son," indicating David's great sorrow.



<http://library--of--babel.blogspot.com/2013/11/1-2-samuel-hebrew-bibles-best-novel.html>

SUMMARY

Proverbs 14:12 states, "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." Sin always leads to death. This could include death of the body, soul, or spirit. While sin often appears pleasurable or right, and it may for a time, it will always lead to destruction.

Psalm 19:8 states, "The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." Righteousness always leads to life, peace, and prosperity and remains everlasting. Psalm 119:105 states, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." God's word will always lead us to righteousness (right-living).

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
2ND Samuel: Chapters 17-18

1. People knew Ahithophel “as if one inquired of the word of God.”
 - A. What clouded Ahithophel’s judgment?
 - B. Why does pride cloud our judgment?
 - C. How can we apply Proverbs 16:18 to our lives?
 - D. What can one do to keep from developing a prideful heart?
 - E. Can one feel proud of an accomplishment and not have a prideful heart? Explain.

2. David prayed that Ahithophel’s advice would come across as foolishness.
 - A. How did God answer David’s prayer?
 - B. Can you think of a time when you asked for wisdom and God answered it through another person? Explain.
 - C. What other ways might God give us wisdom?

3. Ish-bosheth had used the city of Mahanaim as his headquarters. It eventually turned into David’s place of refuge.
 - A. What made the people of Mahanaim so generous to David?
 - B. Have you experienced a time when someone reciprocated a kind act? Explain.
 - C. Have you experienced a time when someone did not reciprocate a kind act? Explain.
 - D. How did you feel in either instance? What did you do?

4. David told the captains of his army not to harm Absalom and yet Joab disobeyed orders and killed him.
 - A. Can you think of a time when your worst nightmare came true?
 - B. How did you feel? What did you do?
 - C. Might we blame God when prayers go unanswered as we wished?
 - D. How can we gain perspective when we encounter disappointment or tragedy?
 - E. Why can some people overcome adversity while others cannot?

5. David thought Ahimaaz would bring him good news when he saw Ahimaaz running toward him. Instead, the news turned tragic.
 - A. How can we prepare ourselves for the hard times in life?
 - B. Have you had a friend or family member go through a very difficult time? Explain. What did you do to help them?
 - C. How can we console someone who feels bitter and angry over misfortune or tragedy?