

Introduction

Let's briefly review what has happened up to this point in this historical story! We continue our look at the Life of David, the Lord's Anointed King of Israel, who has been temporarily dethroned by his own son Absalom.

David, his mighty men, and those closest to him have left Jerusalem because of this in order to protect Jerusalem and the lives of the people of the kingdom of Israel from a destructive civil war!

There are 4 main characters in today's Bible passage.

1. We have David's son, **Absalom**, who has stolen the hearts of the men of Israel and successfully carried out a coup against his father and is now the new self-proclaimed king in Jerusalem.
2. We have **Ahithophel**, a man who, up to this point, was famous for his wise counsel. He had been David's advisor/Secretary of State but has switched sides and is now Absalom's advisor.
3. We have **King David**, who is now living in exile, he is on the run, but don't forget that he is still God's anointed King of Israel!
4. We have **Hushai**, David's friend, who was sent back by David from following him and is now working as an advisor for Absalom and a spy for David. (David's eyes and ears in the palace!)

We'll see some other names come up, but these are the four main characters of what we will see happening here tonight!

This is a part of the **overall story of the ages of God's redemptive plan in Christ!** Satan is behind the scenes **working to thwart God's will!** (Cf. Psalm 2)

As we look at this part of our story tonight, there is **something we should understand—God's purposes and will cannot and will not be thwarted!** Though **it may appear at times that God doesn't have everything under control—He does!**

And we need to understand that **God can use both the counsel and the decisions of evil men for His purposes!**

So, to begin with, let's read the first **2 Samuel 16:15-23**.

We've seen in past weeks how that David wanted someone on the inside of Absalom's leadership who might be able to upset Ahithophel's advice. (*Vs 23*) In the last Chapter we see that David sent his friend Hushai to do exactly that!

From what we just read, it appears there in *Verse 17* that Absalom is suspicious of Hushai. (And for good reason! But we will see that Hushai plays to Absalom's **pride and obsession with himself** to subvert some of Ahithophel's counsel in the next chapter.)

Notice what Hushai says to Absalom in *Verses 17- 19*. **Pay VERY close attention to his words!**

1. When Hushai says there in *Verse 17*—**"God save the king, God save the king."** One might think that he speaking of Absalom, but we know that his real loyalty lies with the REAL KING—KING DAVID!
2. When Hushai answer's Absalom's question, Absalom no doubt heard it differently than Hushai meant it! **Absalom's mind is on his prideful self! Hushai's mind is on his friend King David!**

I. THE COUNSEL OF THE WICKED! (2 Samuel 16:20-23)

A. Ahithophel's Counsel Regarding David's Concubines!

What is it speaking of here when it is talking about these **concubines**? Think of them as **"lesser wives"**. Now, was God OK with Israel's kings copying this heathen practice of having a harem of women? No!

In the ancient world, **concubines** were more than just satisfying one's lusts by adding to their harem. **Concubines** had a political significance and were a symbol of power. Kings showed their virility by the number of **concubines** they had! So this was all about **fulfilling the lusts of the flesh and pride!**

**BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL
2 SAMUEL 16:15 - 17:23**

Now, we're talking about the ways of the world here, not God's ways! God's way is for one man and one woman to be joined in marriage! Anything beyond that is of the world and of man, but not of God!

In fact, this practice that was so popular among worldly kings was specifically looked down on and forbidden by the LORD for Israel's kings! *Deuteronomy 17:17 "Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away..."*

So, David is not right with the LORD in this matter and we see that Ahithophel encourages Absalom to bring David down and disgrace him publicly in the sight of Israel and others by taking his father's concubines to be his own and by having relations with them in the sight of all of Israel!

Very wicked counsel, indeed! **Nevertheless, this fulfilled part of the LORD's prophecy against David delivered by the Prophet Nathan.**

2 Samuel 12:11-12 11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

God sometimes uses the counsel of the wicked and their wickedness to bring about His chastening to His people!

**B. Ahithophel's Counsel Regarding David's End!
(2 Samuel 17:1-4)**

In short, Ahithophel says, strike David while the iron is hot! Ahithophel was planning on leading this attack!

Militarily this was good advice!

**BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL
2 SAMUEL 16:15 - 17:23**

II. THE CONFUSION OF THE WICKED! (2 Samuel 17:5-14)

For some unknown reason here (other than God's own purposes and in answer to David's prayer), Absalom doesn't just go with Ahithophel's good advice automatically!

Instead, he wanted to hear what Hushai the Archite had to say about this! (15:31)

(Read the verses)

Hushai identified the flaw of Absalom—His foolish **PRIDE!** Absalom was absolutely **full of himself!** (Carly Simon's song from the 70's, "*Your So Vain*")

Hushai saw Absalom's pride and so he appealed to that pride of Absalom!

Vs 14 tells us the "*why*" of Absalom refusing the council of Ahithophel. **They were doomed from the beginning to be defeated!** (*Psalm 2*)

God works out His Sovereign purposes through the things that we may sometimes see as just ordinary "*happenings*" or "*decisions.*"

Remember that God is never absent, but He is not always obvious!

III. THE CONFOUNDING OF THE WICKED!

(2 Samuel 17:15-23)

This is here to remind us that **God is in control of everything!**

God has **determined that He would save His king!** (David)

God has **determined to judge the wicked!** (Ahithophel and Absalom)

No one and nothing can confound the purposes of God!