

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
GOD'S PROVISION FOR HIS OWN
2 SAMUEL 17:24-29

Introduction

We last saw here in this Chapter how that Absalom and his men believed that the counsel of Hushai (David's spy) was better than the counsel of Ahithophel. Not that it was the better counsel, but that is what they chose to believe!

The last part of *Vs 14* says "*For the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring evil upon Absalom.*"

We saw how the LORD did this in answer to David's prayer that is recorded in the last part of *2 Samuel 15:31* – "*...And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.*"

We saw how the LORD was Sovereign over everything that was going on! He not only used the decisions of Absalom and the men of Israel for His purposes, but He used different people and things going on in this story to thwart the purposes of Absalom and those who were loyal to him! We saw that though David had been temporarily de-throned, the LORD was still on the throne!

The LORD was working out His purpose to deliver David from the hand of Absalom and to return him to his rightful place on the throne of Israel!

It isn't always easy to see, but **the LORD is still working even when we may not understand His workings or may not even see His workings!** Though there may be times when it may appear differently for a period of time, the LORD's Sovereign purposes **cannot** and **will not** be ultimately thwarted!

Read verses 24-26

This Abigail is not the one that became David's wife. This one is actually one of David's sisters (or more probably half sisters) according to *1 Chronicles 2:16* which tells us that both Abigail and Zeruah were David's sisters.

But it also says that they were the daughters of Nahash which could be the name of their mother or it could mean David's mother was married to Jesse when she had David and married to a Nahash when she had his sisters!

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The words "*went in to Abigail*" suggest that Amasa was conceived outside of a marriage and was therefore illegitimate. In fact, *1 Chronicles 2:17* lists Jether the Ishmeelite as the father of Amasa. So, it appears that one man was in on the conception while the other actually raised the child and/or adopted the child as his own. We are not told.

I find it interesting that David chose Joab, his nephew as captain of his host and Absalom chose Amasa, another of David's nephews as captain of his host! So we see that it is "*All In The Family*" here!

Read verses 27-29

According to *verse 22*, David and all the people that were with him had passed over Jordan. We're not told how they did that, but just that they did it! Then *verse 24* tells us that David came to this place called *Mahanaim*.

According to *Genesis 32:1-2*, this is the place where the angels of God met Jacob when he left Laban and was headed back home to face Esau! Jacob gave it the name which means "*two hosts*" or "*two camps*".

It is also the place where *2 Samuel 2:8* tells us the captain of Saul's host, Abner, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul to after Saul's death.

2 Samuel 2:8-9 *8 But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim; 9 And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.*

This was during those 2 years after Saul's death when David ruled over Judah from Hebron and Ishbosheth ruled over all the rest of Israel from *Mahanaim*.

It is believed that David chose to go to *Mahanaim* because it was so well fortified which is why it had served as the capital of Israel under Ish-Bosheth. Also, there could also well have been some good feelings there toward David because of David's past favors to Saul's family, especially to Mephibosheth.

For what ever reason, the LORD obviously led him there because the LORD had folks there that provided for David and his peoples needs!

We see three men come to the assistance of David and his men here.
Who are these men?

I. SHOBI, The Son Of The Ammonite King, Nahash.

This is the first mention of *Shobi*, but not of his father.

We read about his father *Nahash* and his brother *Hanun* back in *2 Samuel 10:1-4*. Let me remind you of what happened then:

Hanun and *Shobi's* father, King *Nahash* had died. David had sent some ambassadors **to show respect and kindness** over the death of their father **who had showed kindness to David** while he was on the run from Saul.

But *Shobi's* older brother, *Hanun*, listened to some of the more influential Ammonites who told him that **David had sent these servants to spy out the land**.

So, *Hanun* humiliated David's ambassadors (*by cutting off half their beard off and cutting off their garments in the middle exposing their buttocks*) and then he sent them back to David. Not his brightest moment!

David took care of the situation and defeated the Ammonites. It is obvious from what we see here that *Shobi* didn't agree with his brother and respected what David had done and sided with him, though *Shobi* is not mentioned in the *2 Samuel 10* text.

II. MACHIR, the son of Ammiel of Lodebar.

Now *Machir's* name is one that has come up before. He is mentioned in *2 Samuel 9:4-5* as being the one who took care of Jonathan's son, *Mephibosheth*, before David showed kindness to *Mephibosheth* and brought him back to Jerusalem to care for him.

No doubt, this act of kindness to *Mephibosheth* took a load off of Machir, made a lasting impression on him!

III. BARZILLAI, the Gileadite of Rogelim.

Barzillai was a very old wealthy man. This is the first mention of him, but we do find him mentioned later in *Chapter 19*.

He too was very loyal to David and as we will see when we get to that Chapter. I'm not going to turn over there right now. Just know that sometimes its good to have a wealthy friend, Amen!

Every Believer has a Wealthy Friend! Our friend is the LORD Who owns it all! Amen! Oh how blessed we are indeed!

Conclusion

Here's what I believe the LORD would have us to learn from all of this!

1. In difficult times our LORD makes provision for us!

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2. When we have shown kindness and mercy to others, the LORD sees that...others see that...and the LORD will bring them and/or others to show us kindness and mercy when we need it!

Shobi saw the *kindness* David showed during the death of his father. *Machir* saw the *kindness and mercy* David showed to *Mephibosheth*. And here we see these two men along with another man showing the same thing to David— *kindness and mercy!*

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

In David's song to the LORD in *2 Samuel 22:26-27*, he said:
2 Samuel 22:26-27 — With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright. 27 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury.

David found out that these 3 men were his real friends. Even in a very difficult time and with severe consequences possible, they came to David's assistance.

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David and his men had been on the run and they're hungry and tired. And along came these three that not only brought lots of food, but they brought cooking utensils too!

What kind of God do we have? He's a God Who takes care of the big things! However, He's also a God Who takes care of the little things.

3. When it comes to kindness and mercy, sometimes we're on the giving end and sometimes we're on the receiving end!

- a. See the giving end as an opportunity to be used of the LORD for His purposes! Keep your focus on the LORD!**
Don't get all prideful about what you are doing, but praise the LORD for whatever good He allows you to do and be a part of!
- b. See the receiving end as the LORD sending folks your way to also fulfill His purposes! Keep your focus on the LORD!**
Don't forget to be thankful to both those that minister for the LORD and to the LORD that sends them our way to minister to us!
- c. David didn't focus on his problems, his focus was on the LORD Who provided!** (This was one of his Jehovah-ji-reh moments! The LORD will see and provide!)

We all need to look for and recognize those Jehovah-ji-reh moments in our own life!

4. When times get tough, just keep on trusting the LORD!

David knew that some of what he was experiencing was his own fault! But he didn't have a pity party and he didn't stop trusting the LORD!

He knew that if the LORD brought him to it, then the LORD could help bring him through it! Even if some of what he was experiencing was circumstances and chastening because of his sin!