

Absalom's Advisors

2 Samuel 16:20 – 17:29

Psalms 55, 61, 62, and 63

by Don Falkos

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Ahithophel urged Absalom, "Let me take some men and go after David. I will catch him unprepared. His men will scatter, and I will be able to kill him. No one else needs to die. They can all be brought back to be your subjects." It was a good plan. His advice seemed to come straight from God.

But Hushai said, "Your father and his men are mighty warriors. It's your troops who will panic and be slaughtered. Mobilize the entire army of Israel and then go after David. Lead the troops yourself. You will be able to crush the king and his followers. Not one of them will be left alive."

The Lord prompted Absalom to act on Hushai's advice even though Ahithophel had the better plan. When Ahithophel saw that his advice had not been followed, he saddled his donkey, went home, set his affairs in order, and hanged himself.

The High Priest sent two messengers to warn David. They were spotted, and Absalom sent men to intercept them. A man hid them in a well and his wife put a covering over the well and scattered grain on it. When Absalom's men arrived, they found nothing. After they'd gone, the messengers climbed out of the well and went to King David. They urged him, "Cross the Jordan at once, and escape into the wilderness."

They told David about Ahithophel's plan, and David said, "Oh, my dear friend. We have enjoyed such sweet fellowship. Yet now you send my enemies to hunt me down. But the Lord will sustain me and will never let the righteous fall."

David and all the people with him crossed the Jordan River during the night. Absalom mobilized the entire army of Israel and chased after them.