



## Lesson 94

## Absalom Enters Jerusalem

- **Text:** 2 Samuel 16:15-17:29
- **Setting:** approx. 990 B.C.
- **Main Characters:** God, David, Absalom, Ahithophel, and Hushai
- **Plot:** Hushai succeeds in countering the words of Ahithophel, in answer to David's prayer.
- **Key word(s):** "counsel"
- **Climax:** *"And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel. For the Lord had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the Lord might bring evil upon Absalom."* (17:14)

### Review (2 Sam. 15:1-16:14)

1. As David and his loyalists fled from Absalom, he set up a network of spies within Jerusalem, including the priests Abiathar and Zadok, their sons, and the famed counselor \_\_\_\_\_.

### Usurping the Throne (2 Sam. 16:15-23)

2. Soon after Absalom entered the palace, Hushai declared his loyalty to the new king. Absalom was suspicious of his father's friend switching sides so willingly, but Hushai assuaged his doubts by declaring his allegiance was to \_\_\_\_\_ and Israel. (16:18-19)
3. Needing a next-action-list, Absalom solicits Ahithophel's advice.
  - (a) Ahithophel, in wicked shrewdness, discerns Absalom's need to make a show of his \_\_\_\_\_ to the people of Israel. To do this, Ahithophel tells Absalom to cohabit with his father's concubines in a tent atop the palace.
  - (b) This fulfilled Nathan's prophecy in 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 \_\_\_\_\_. 12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun."*

### Saving the King and Setting the Trap (2 Sam. 17:1-29)

4. Ahithophel's next plan of action for Absalom was to muster an army of \_\_\_\_\_ troops and to immediately set out to find David and his people. Ahithophel believed that David's men were tired and demoralized, and that they would easily fall to Absalom's new army.
5. In the spirit of cautious leadership, Absalom also wished to hear Hushai's advice.

(a) Hushai countered the words of Ahithophel and suggested that Absalom wait until a larger army could be mobilized. Hushai argued that David and his men were not demoralized, but \_\_\_\_\_, and to battle such skilled men of war with a relatively small army would invite disaster.

(b) Hushai also suggested that \_\_\_\_\_ himself go to war and lead Israel into battle.

6. Absalom agreed with Hushai's words.

(a) Nevertheless, Hushai thought it wise to send warning to David by the hand of Jonathan and Ahimaaz not to stay on the west side of the Jordan, but to cross over and find a safe \_\_\_\_\_.

(b) Jonathan and Ahimaaz were discovered and pursued by Absalom's guards, but they hid in an empty \_\_\_\_\_ in Bahurim.

7. When Ahithophel realized that his counsel had been rejected, he went home and killed himself. Why do you think he did this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. David and his group found refuge in Mahanaim, a city in Gilead \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jordan River and about 35 miles south of the Sea of Galilee.

(a) Shobi (a man of royal lineage from Ammon), Machir (a wealthy benefactor from Lodebar) and \_\_\_\_\_ (another wealthy friend from Gilead) brought supplies to David and his people.

(b) Meanwhile, Absalom's army amassed in \_\_\_\_\_ and prepared for battle.

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## Application

9. God's **sovereignty** is illustrated in how he answered David's prayer in 15:31 by making Hushai's advice more attractive than Ahithophel's and thereby sealing the fate of Absalom. 2 Sam. 17: 14, *"For the Lord had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the Lord might bring evil upon Absalom."*

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**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Answer Key:** Key word(s): counsel • 1. Hushai • 2. God • 3. a) power; b) sun • 4. 12,000 • 5. a) enraged; b) Absalom • 7. He knew that Hushai's counsel would bring Absalom's coup to an end and David would return to the throne angry and vengeful. Ahithophel wanted to take his own life instead of facing execution. • 8. a) Barzillai; b) Gilead • 9. sovereignty

**How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study:** (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.