



## **A House Divided (Part 1): Trouble in David's Family (2 Sam 17-18)**

*Notes: Week Nine*

### **The Advice of Hushai and Ahithophel - [2 Samuel 16:15-17:29](#)**

Topics: [Advice](#), [Choices](#), [Danger](#), [Deceit](#), [Escape](#), [Friendship](#), [Frustration](#), [God's Will](#), [Guidance](#), [Hiding](#), [Influence](#), [Instructions](#), [Lying](#), [Plans](#), [Rejection](#), [Relationships](#), [Reliability](#), [Reputation](#), [Respect](#), [Teamwork](#), [Wives](#)

#### **Open It**

1. \*What are the pros and cons of a head of state relying on advisors?
2. To whom do you turn for advice?
3. What makes your favorite "chase" scene from a book or movie so exciting?

#### **Explore It**

4. Who was at Absalom's side when he entered Jerusalem? ([16:15](#))
5. What question did Absalom have for Hushai the Arkite when they met? ([16:16-17](#))
6. What reasons did Hushai give to convince Absalom that he would change his loyalties? ([16:18-19](#))
7. What was Ahithophel's advice on how Absalom should proceed in his bid to become king instead of David? ([16:20-22](#))
8. How was Ahithophel regarded as an advisor to kings? ([16:23](#))
9. \*What plan of attack did Ahithophel recommend to Absalom? ([17:1-4](#))
10. \*What was Hushai's reasoning to convince Absalom that Ahithophel's plan was not good? ([17:5-10](#))
11. What alternate advice did Hushai give to Absalom? ([17:11-13](#))
12. Which advisor's plan was more likely to bring success to Absalom? ([17:14](#))
13. \*Why did Absalom choose to follow Hushai's advice? ([17:14](#))
14. What message did Hushai send to David via the priests? ([17:15-16](#))
15. Why did the priests' sons end up hiding from Absalom's men? ([17:17-18](#))

16. Who assisted Ahimaaz and Jonathan in hiding from Absalom's men? ([17:18-20](#))
17. What did David and his followers do in response to Hushai's message? ([17:21-22](#))
18. How did Ahithophel take the news that his advice had not been followed? ([17:23](#))
19. Who led the armies of Absalom to Gilead in pursuit of David? ([17:24-26](#))
20. Who brought provisions to David at Mahanaim? ([17:27-29](#))

### **Get It**

21. Why was Ahithophel such a valuable asset to Absalom?
22. \*In what sense was the struggle between Absalom and David more a struggle of wits than of armies?
23. What evidence do we have that intelligence and even wisdom can be used for either good or evil?
24. \*How can we filter the advice we receive to ensure that it is according to God's wisdom?
25. Why is teamwork often essential to achieving our objectives?
26. Why are outrageous and detestable actions used as a strategy of war?
27. How important is motivation and morale in the outcome of military fighting?

### **Apply It**

28. \*What safeguards should you employ before taking the advice of a widely acknowledged expert?
29. How can you make a contribution this week to the teamwork of the people of God?

## Absalom's Death - [2 Samuel 18:1-18](#)

Topics: [Affections](#), [Anger](#), [Arguments](#), [Compassion](#), [Criticism](#), [Death](#), [Decisions](#), [Disagreements](#), [Disobedience](#), [Excuses](#), [Initiative](#), [Instructions](#), [Love](#), [Mercy](#), [Murder](#), [Opportunities](#), [Protection](#), [Self-Centeredness](#), [Value](#), [Waiting](#), [Zeal](#)

### Open It

1. \*What instance can you name when you decided to do what seemed best for someone else rather than what he or she wanted you to do?
2. What do you want people to say about you after you are gone?

### Explore It

3. How did David organize his army of supporters? ([18:1-2](#))
4. For what reasons did David's followers ask him not to go into battle himself? ([18:3](#))
5. \*What command did all the troops hear David giving his commanders as they left the city? ([18:5](#))
6. How did Absalom's side (Israel) fare in the battle against David? ([18:6-7](#))
7. How did the location of the battle add a unique element to the fighting? ([18:6-8](#))
8. What happened to Absalom just as he encountered David's men? ([18:9](#))
9. \*What was Joab's complaint against the man who reported Absalom's whereabouts? ([18:10-11](#))
10. How did the soldier explain his reasons for not killing Absalom on the spot? ([18:12-13](#))
11. \*How did Joab make sure that Absalom was not taken alive? ([18:14-15](#))
12. How was the battle brought to an end? ([18:16](#))
13. What became of Absalom and of the Israelite army? ([18:17](#))
14. Why had Absalom built a monument to himself while he was still alive? ([18:18](#))

### **Get It**

15. Why did David want his army to "be gentle with the young man Absalom"?
16. \*Why do you suppose Joab chose to ignore David's plea and killed Absalom himself?
17. To what extent can human beings control how they will be remembered?
18. In what sense was Absalom's death good news for Israel and Judah?
19. \*When is a person's fondest wish not in his or her best interest?
20. What can be good or bad about taking advantage of someone's sudden vulnerability?

### **Apply It**

21. \*What close friend can help you determine whether your desires really constitute what is best for you?
22. What habits can you establish that will partly ensure that you will be remembered favorably?

## David Mourns - [2 Samuel 18:19-19:8](#)

Topics: [Accusation](#), [Advice](#), [Alone](#), [Apathy](#), [Arguments](#), [Attitude](#), [Children](#), [Confusion](#), [Correction](#), [Death](#), [Depression](#), [Discouragement](#), [Encouragement](#), [Enemies](#), [Expectations](#), [Family](#), [Forget](#), [Goodness](#), [Grief](#), [Hatred](#), [Humiliation](#), [Indifference](#), [Injustice](#), [Leadership](#), [Love](#), [Loyalty](#), [Mourning](#), [Neglect](#), [Parents](#), [Praise](#), [Priorities](#), [Resentment](#), [Responsibility](#), [Running](#), [Shame](#), [Unfairness](#), [Victory](#)

### Open It

1. What would you do if someone urged you not to grieve a loved one's death?
2. \*To what extent do you expect a leader to set aside his or her personal feelings for the good of the group?
3. Why would you or would you not want to be the one to break bad news to your best friend?

### Explore It

4. Who wanted to take the news of the battle's outcome to David? ([18:19](#))
5. Why did Joab want to send a different messenger than the one who wanted to go? ([18:20](#))
6. Whom did Joab send with the news of Absalom's defeat and death? ([18:21](#))
7. What did Joab do when Ahimaaz insisted that he wanted to run with the news of Absalom's death? ([18:23](#))
8. What did the watchman report to David, who was waiting inside the city? ([18:24-26](#))
9. What did David assume about the two lone runners coming his way? ([18:24-27](#))
10. Why did David assume that Ahimaaz came with good news? ([18:27](#))
11. What positive message did Ahimaaz convey to David? ([18:28](#))
12. How did Ahimaaz respond to David's inquiries about Absalom's safety? ([18:29](#))
13. How did the Cushite answer the question from David? ([18:32](#))
14. \*What was David's response to the news of the death of his son? ([18:33](#))
15. \*Why was the spirit of victory squashed among David's supporters? ([19:2-3](#))
16. What was David's lament from the time he learned the news of his son's death? ([19:4](#))
17. \*What were Joab's accusations against David? ([19:5-6](#))
18. What did Joab warn would happen if David didn't encourage the troops? ([19:7](#))
19. What did David do in response to Joab's urgings? ([19:8](#))

## **Get It**

20. Why was Joab hesitant to send the son of a priest to David with bad news?
21. Why did both of the messengers present the good news first?
22. \*Why was David's reaction confusing and disheartening to his followers?
23. Why is it difficult to give up hope about someone we love, even when there is no logical reason to hope?
24. Why is it impossible for grief and rejoicing to happen side by side?
25. What level of responsibility does God require of leaders?
26. \*To what extent does God expect a leader to set aside his or her own emotions and work for the good of the group?
27. Why is it wise to reward loyalty and sacrifice?

## **Apply It**

28. In what concrete way can you show appreciation for someone who has sacrificed on your behalf?
29. \*What are some responsibilities that you need to fulfill despite how you feel?
30. How can you reach out to someone who is dealing with bad news?