

TRIUMPHS
AND TRIALS
of the
KING



A Betrayer, Traitor, Spy, and a King Walk Into a Conflict

2 SAMUEL 16:15-17:29



Main Idea

Sin is serious, His mercy is more, His sovereignty is sure, and His salvation is sweet



I. Competing Counsel: Counsel Contrary to the Scripture Destroys (16:15-17:14)

¹⁵ Now Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him. ¹⁶ And when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" ¹⁷ And Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?" ¹⁸ And Hushai said to Absalom, "No, for whom the Lord and this people and all the men of Israel have chosen, his I will be, and with him I will remain. ¹⁹ And again, whom should I serve? Should it not be his son? As I have served your father, so I will serve you."



I. Competing Counsel: Counsel Contrary to the Scripture Destroys (16:15-17:14)

²⁰ Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your counsel. What shall we do?" ²¹ said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left Ahithophel to keep the house, and all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench to your father, and the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened." ²² So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof. And Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. ²³ Now in those days the counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel esteemed, both by David and by Absalom.



Application

Weigh Counsel by the Word



I. Competing Counsel: Counsel Contrary to the Scripture Destroys (16:15-17:14)

17 Moreover, Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight. ²I will come upon him while he is weary and discouraged and throw him into a panic, and all the people who are with him will flee. I will strike down only the king, ³and I will bring all the people back to you as a bride comes home to her husband. You seek the life of only one man, and all the people will be at peace.” ⁴And the advice seemed right in the eyes of Absalom and all the elders of Israel.



I. Competing Counsel: Counsel Contrary to the Scripture Destroys (16:15-17:14)

⁵ Then Absalom said, "Call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he has to say." ⁶ And when Hushai came to Absalom, Absalom said to him, "Thus has Ahithophel spoken; shall we do as he says? If not, you speak." ⁷ Then Hushai said to Absalom, "This time the counsel that Ahithophel has given is not good." ⁸ Hushai said, "You know that your father and his men are mighty men, and that they are enraged, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. Besides, your father is expert in war..."



II. See the Meticulous Providence of God (17:15-17:29)

¹⁵ Then Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Thus and so did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel, and thus and so have I counseled. ¹⁶ Now therefore send quickly and tell David, 'Do not stay tonight at the fords of the wilderness, but by all means pass over, lest the king and all the people who are with him be swallowed up.' " ¹⁷ Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz were waiting at En-rogel. A female servant was to go and tell them, and they were to go and tell King David, for they were not to be seen entering the city. ¹⁸ But a young man saw them and told Absalom. So both of them went away quickly and came to the house of a man at Bahurim, who had a well in his courtyard. And they went down into it. ¹⁹ And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth and scattered grain on it, and nothing was known of it.



II. See the Meticulous Providence of God (17:15-17:29)

When Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey and went off home to his own city. He set his house in order and hanged himself, and he died and was buried in the tomb of his father.



Application from Charles Spurgeon:

"Thinking it judicious to be on the popular side, he left his old master to hold an eminent position under Absalom. This was not only a crime but a mistake. His case teaches us that the greatest worldly wisdom will not preserve someone from the utmost folly. Here was a man noted as excelling in wisdom, who yet had not wit enough to keep his neck from the fatal noose. The wisdom that contemplates only this life fails even in its own sphere, its devices too temporary; and the whole comes down with a crash when least expected to fall... What sad cases have we seen of people who have been wise in policy but who have utterly failed from lack of principle"





II. See the Meticulous Providence of God (17:15-17:29)

Application: See the meticulous providence of God
at work behind the scenes



II. See the Meticulous Providence of God (17:15-17:29)

²⁷ When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim, ²⁸ brought beds, basins, and earthen vessels, wheat, barley, flour, parched grain, beans and lentils, ²⁹ honey and curds and sheep and cheese from the herd, for David and the people with him to eat, for they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness."



Conclusion:
We need a Better King

