

Ahithophel: The Man Who Betrayed David

INTRODUCTION.

- A. One of the consequences of David's sin with Bathsheba was the division of his family. (II Samuel 12:10-11)
- B. This division resulted in the rebellion of Absalom, David's son. A key figure and adviser to Absalom during his rebellion was a man named Ahithophel. In this lesson, we will take a look at Ahithophel and the lessons we can learn from him.

I. SOME FACTS ABOUT AHITHOPHEL.

- A. Ahithophel was from the town of Giloh located southwest of Judah. (II Samuel 15:12)
- B. Ahithophel was the grandfather of Bathsheba whom David stole from Uriah the Hittite. (II Samuel 11:3; 23:34)
- C. Ahithophel was known for his wisdom in matters of government. *"And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom."* (2 Samuel 16:23, KJV)

II. THE STORY OF AHITHOPHEL'S BETRAYAL.

- A. After having stolen the hearts of the men of Israel, Absalom, the son of David began a rebellion. (II Samuel 15:6-12)
- B. One of the conspirators was Ahithophel. (II Samuel 15:31) When David learned of this, he prayed that God would "turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness."
- C. To help defeat the counsel of Ahithophel, David sent his friend Hushai to serve Absalom. (II Samuel 15:32-37)
- D. After Absalom and the those following Him came to Jerusalem, they took the King's house where David had left 10 concubines to keep the house. At this time, Hushai, David's friend, pledged his service to Absalom. (II Samuel 16:15-19)
- E. Absalom asked Ahithophel for counsel. Ahithophel told Absalom to go in to David's concubines before all of Israel. (II Samuel 16:20-22)
- F. Ahithophel furthered counseled on an offensive move against David. (II Samuel 17:1-4)
 - 1. Absalom wanted to choose 12,000 men and pursue David.
 - 2. Ahithophel would attack David when he was weary and weak All of the

people with David would flee and Ahithophel would kill David.

3. Ahithophel figured that by bringing back all of David's people, then all of Israel would be at peace.
- G. Hushai gave Absalom differing advice contrary to that of Ahithophel. (II Samuel 17:5-13)
1. Hushai explained that Ahithophel's advice was flawed. Hushai said that because of David and his men's anger, defeating David would be difficult. Hushai said that surely David would be camping in a pit or somewhere away from his people. Once David would hear Ahithophel's attack, David and his men would come out fighting valiantly like a lion.
 2. Hushai suggested that Absalom call all Israel before him from Dan to Beersheba, like the sand by the sea, and that Absalom lead the great multitude into battle. Hushai said that Absalom would then be able to defeat David.
- H. Absalom and all the men of Israel preferred Hushai's plan over Ahithophel's plan. (II Samuel 17:14)
- I. Hushai sent word to David of his plan so that David could prepare himself. (II Samuel 17:15-22)
- J. After Ahithophel saw that Absalom had rejected his advice, Ahithophel set his house in order and hanged himself. (II Samuel 17:23)

III. LESSONS LEARNED.

- A. Ahithophel possessed no worthwhile principles.
1. His loyalty was fickle and he was crafty (deceitful).
 2. Solomon warned his sons about those whose loyalty was fickle. (Proverbs 24:21-22)
- B. Ahithophel led Absalom to engage in sin.
1. Ahithophel told Absalom to be with David's concubines. (II Samuel 16:21)
 2. As Christians, we should avoid those who would lead us astray. (II Peter 2:18-22)
 3. As Christians, we should not lead others away from Christ. Consider the words of Jesus in Matthew 18:6-7.
- C. Ahithophel abused his friendship with David.
1. Christians should not abuse and sin against their friends.

2. Jesus taught that we are to treat others as we would want to be treated. (Matthew 7:12)
3. Solomon wrote the following on friendships.
 - a. Proverbs 7:17
 - (1) KJV - "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."
 - (2) Septuagint - "Have thou a friend for every time, and let brethren be useful in distress; for on this account are they born."
 - b. Proverbs 18:24
 - (1) KJV - "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."
 - (2) ASV - "He that maketh many friends doeth it to his own destruction; But there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."
4. Christians, of all people, must make certain that they are true, kind, and loving to their friends.

CONCLUSION.

- A. There will always be people like Ahithophel, people like Absalom, people like Hushai, and people like David. We must choose whose example we will follow.
 1. Will we be like David who was faithful to God?
 2. Will we be like Hushai who was faithful to his friend?
 3. Will we be like Absalom who was unfaithful to God and who rebelled against his father?
 4. Will we be like Ahithophel who betrayed David and the people of Israel, who gave Absalom ungodly advice, and who killed himself when things did not go his way?
- B. Let us be reminded of the age old lesson that says that the righteous will be rewarded and uplifted and the unrighteous will be punished and rejected.

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