

II Samuel 15:13-17:29

Lesson #17, David's Mournful Retreat

15:13 Then a messenger came to David, saying, " The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

It was reported to David that the nation of Israel had turned it's allegiance to Absalom (II Sam 15:13). In response the king ordered a hasty flight from Jerusalem for his family and servants. He wished to deliver those loyal to him from the sword and to spare Jerusalem from an armed assault by Absalom's forces (II Sam 15:14) There was a large minority who remained loyal to David. At the very outset his servants asserted, 'Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king decides (II Sam 15:15).¹

14 David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, " Arise and let us flee, for otherwise none of us will escape from Absalom. Go in haste, or he will overtake us quickly and bring down calamity on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword." 15 Then the king's servants said to the king, "Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king chooses." 16 So the king went out and all his household with him. But the king left ten concubines to keep the house. 17 The king went out and all the people with him, and they stopped at the last house. 18 Now all his servants passed on beside him, all the Cherethites, all the Pelethites and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had come with him from Gath, passed on before the king.

19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why will you also go with us? Return and remain with the king, for you are a foreigner and also an exile; return to your own place. 20 "You came only yesterday, and shall I today make you wander with us, while I go where I will? Return and take back your brothers; mercy and truth be with you." 21 But Ittai answered the king and said, "As the Lord lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely wherever my lord the king may be, whether for death or for life, there also your servant will be." 22 Therefore David said to Ittai, "Go and pass over." So Ittai the Gittite passed over with all his men and all the little ones who were with him. 23 While all the country was weeping with a loud voice, all the people passed over. The king also passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over toward the way of the wilderness.

[1.] Regarding Ittai, v:18 & 19 gives us some good info on those 600. Take a shot, what nationality was Ittai?

[2.] v:21, Ittai's answer to David's instruction smacks of a what David's great-great grand mother said to Naomi. Who was she?

[3.] v:22, and all the little ones who were with him. Who would these be?

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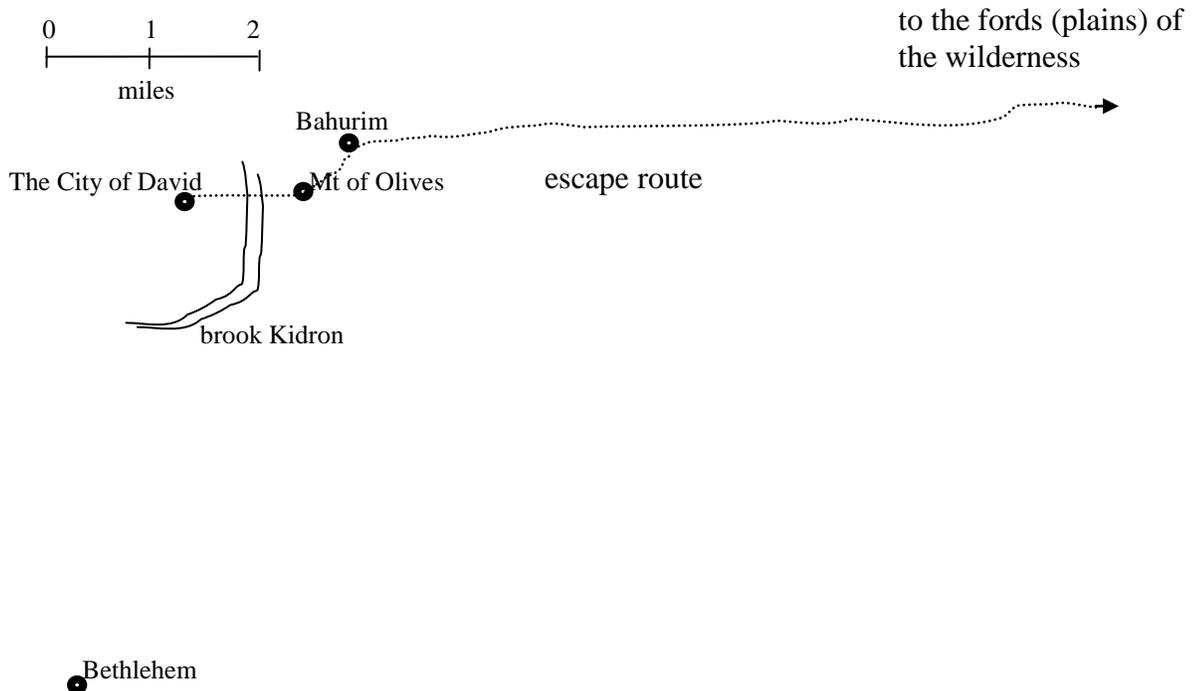
24 Now behold, Zadok also came, and all the Levites with him carrying the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar came up until all the people had finished passing from the city. 25 The king said to Zadok, "Return the ark of God to the city. If I find favor in the sight of the Lord, then He will bring me back again and show me both it and His habitation. 26 "But if He should say thus, ' I have no delight in you,' behold, here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him." 27 The king said also to Zadok the priest, "Are you not a seer? Return to the city in peace and your two sons with you, your son Ahimaaz and Jonathan the son of Abiathar. 28 "See, I am going to wait at the fords (plains, kjv,nkjv) of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me." 29 Therefore Zadok and Abiathar returned the ark of God to Jerusalem and remained there.

[4.] v:24, Remind me, who was Zadok (II Sam 8:17)?

[5.] What did the presence of the ark signify?

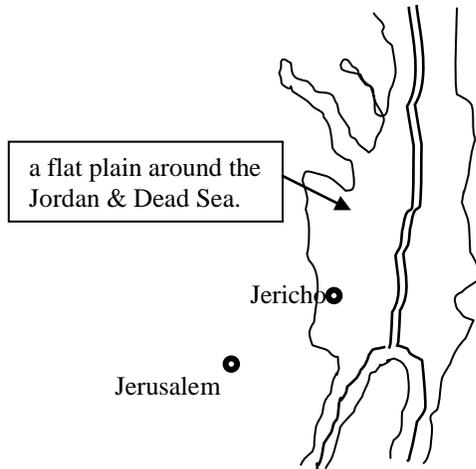
[6.] v:25-27, What were David's instructions to Zadok?

[7.] According to v:28, where did David say he was going to wait.



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30 And David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went, and his head was covered and he walked barefoot. Then all the people who were with him each covered his head and went up weeping as they went. 31 Now someone told David, saying, " Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O Lord, I pray, make the counsel of Ahithophel foolishness."

32 It happened as David was coming to the summit, where God was worshiped, that behold, Hushai the Archite met him with his coat torn and dust on his head. 33 David said to him, "If you pass over with me, then you will be a burden to me. 34 "But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; as I have been your father's servant in time past, so I will now be your servant,' then you can thwart the counsel of Ahithophel for me. 35 "Are not Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? So it shall be that whatever you hear from the king's house, you shall report to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. 36 "Behold their two sons are with them there, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son and Jonathan, Abiathar's son; and by them you shall send me everything that you hear." 37 So Hushai, David's friend, came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

[8.] From Josh 4:13-19, at what location did the children cross the Jordan?

[9.] Is it possible that this also was where the refugees from Jerusalem stopped for awhile?

[10] v:31, According to II Sam 15:12, what was Ahithophel really good at in David's throne room?

[11] v:31 again, Did David pray wisely?

[12.] As Christian leaders what can we pray regarding intelligent people that could do a number on us?

[13.] According to v:32-37 what task did David assign to Hushai and what was the purpose of the command?

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16:1, Now when David had passed a little beyond the summit, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him with a couple of saddled donkeys, and on them were two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred clusters of raisins, a hundred summer fruits, and a jug of wine. 2 The king said to Ziba, "Why do you have these?" And Ziba said, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride, and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the wine, for whoever is faint in the wilderness to drink." 3 Then the king said, "And where is your master's son?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is staying in Jerusalem, for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will restore the kingdom of my father to me.'" 4 So the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that belongs to Mephibosheth is yours." And Ziba said, "I prostrate myself; let me find favor in your sight, O my lord, the king!"

5 When King David came to Bahurim, (Nob, map pg#2) behold, there came out from there a man of the family of the house of Saul whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera; he came out cursing continually as he came. 6 He threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David; and all the people and all the mighty men were at his right hand and at his left. 7 Thus Shimei said when he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of bloodshed, and worthless fellow! 8 " The Lord has returned upon you all the bloodshed of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the Lord has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. And behold, you are taken in your own evil, for you are a man of bloodshed!"

9 Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over now and cut off his head." 10 But the king said, "What have I to do with you, O sons of Zeruiah? If he curses, and if the Lord has told him, 'Curse David,' then who shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" 11 Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my son who came out from me seeks my life; how much more now this Benjamite? Let him alone and let him curse, for the Lord has told him. 12 "Perhaps the Lord will look on my affliction and return good to me instead of his cursing this day."

[14.] 16:1, Let's go back and review lesson 10 and write down info about Ziba.

[15.] In order answer to David's question (v:3), first find out who was your master's son?

[16.] v:3 again, Was Ziba's answer good news or bad news to David?

[17.] What bestowal did David make on Ziba?

[18.] v:5-8, Shimei seems to be a real "piece of work" but that aside what was his beef with David?

[19.] 1 John 3:13, Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. Look at the context and write down who hates who & why.

[20.] v:9 Please remind me, who was Abishai the son of Zeruiah?

[21.] In v:11, David explains why he didn't sweat Shimei. What was the explanation?

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13 So David and his men went on the way; and Shimei went along on the hillside parallel with him and as he went he cursed and cast stones and threw dust at him. 14 The king and all the people who were with him arrived weary and he refreshed himself there.

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

20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your advice. What shall we do?" 21 Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself odious to your father. The hands of all who are with you will also 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 The advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one inquired of the word of God; so was all the advice of Ahithophel regarded by both David and Absalom.

17:1 Furthermore, Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Please let me choose 12,000 men that I may arise and pursue David tonight. 2 "I will come upon him while he is weary and exhausted and terrify him, so that all the people who are with him will flee. Then I will strike down the king alone, 3 and I will bring back all the people to you. The return of everyone depends on the man you seek; then all the people will be at peace." 4 So the plan pleased Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

[22.] When Absalom questioned Hushai about his loyalty, what did he respond (v:18-19)?

[23.] When Absalom asked Ahithophel's advice, what two things (v:21 & 17:1-4) did he recommend?

1st thing:

2nd thing:

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5 Then Absalom said, "Now call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he has to say." 6 When Hushai had come to Absalom, Absalom said to him, "Ahithophel has spoken thus. Shall we carry out his plan? If not, you speak." 7 So Hushai said to Absalom, "This time the advice that Ahithophel has given is not good." 8 Moreover, Hushai said, "You know your father and his men, that they are mighty men and they are fierce, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. And your father is an expert in warfare, and will not spend the night with the people. 9 "Behold, he has now hidden himself in one of the caves or in another place; and it will be when he falls on them at the first attack, that whoever hears it will say, 'There has been a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.' 10 "And even the one who is valiant, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will completely lose heart; for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man and those who are with him are valiant men. 11 "But I counsel that all Israel be surely gathered to you, from Dan even to Beersheba, as the sand that is by the sea in abundance, and that you personally go into battle. 12 "So we shall come to him in one of the places where he can be found, and we will fall on him as the dew falls on the ground; and of him and of all the men who are with him, not even one will be left. 13 "If he withdraws into a city, then all Israel shall bring ropes to that city, and we will drag it into the valley until not even a small stone is found there."

14 Then 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 ordained to thwart the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the Lord might bring calamity on Absalom.

[23.] When Absalom asked Hushai's advice, what reason (v:8-10) did he give for not following Ahithophel's advice?

[24.] v:11-13, What was Hushai's counter advice?

[25.] Is it possible that when Hushai said, all Israel be surely gathered to you, from Dan even to Beersheba, as the sand that is by the sea in abundance, and that you personally go into battle, that it was a real "turn on" for Absalom and it probably won the day?

[26.] Something to think about! Considering 16:14, Would Ahithophel's plan have probably worked?

[27.] Was David's prayer (15:31) answered?

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15 Then Hushai said to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, " This is what Ahithophel counseled Absalom and the elders of Israel, and this is what I have counseled. 16 "Now therefore, send quickly and tell David, saying, ' Do not spend the night at the fords of the wilderness, but by all means cross over, or else the king and all the people who are with him will be destroyed.' "

17 Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying at En-rogel, and a maidservant would go and tell them, and they would go and tell King David, for they could not be seen entering the city. 18 But a lad did see them and told Absalom; so the two of them departed quickly and came to the house of a man in Bahurim, who had a well in his courtyard, and they went down into it. 19 And the woman took a covering and spread it over the well's mouth and scattered grain on it, so that nothing was known. 20 Then Absalom's servants came to the woman at the house and said, "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" And the woman said to them, "They have crossed the brook of water." And when they searched and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

21 It came about after they had departed that they came up out of the well and went and told King David; and they said to David, " Arise and cross over the water quickly for thus Ahithophel has counseled against you." 22 Then David and all the people who were with him arose and crossed the Jordan; and by dawn not even one remained who had not crossed the Jordan.

23 Now when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey and arose and went to his home, to his city, and set his house in order, and strangled himself; thus he died and was buried in the grave of his father.

[28.] comparing at v:16 with 15:28, was the plain and the fords one in the same?

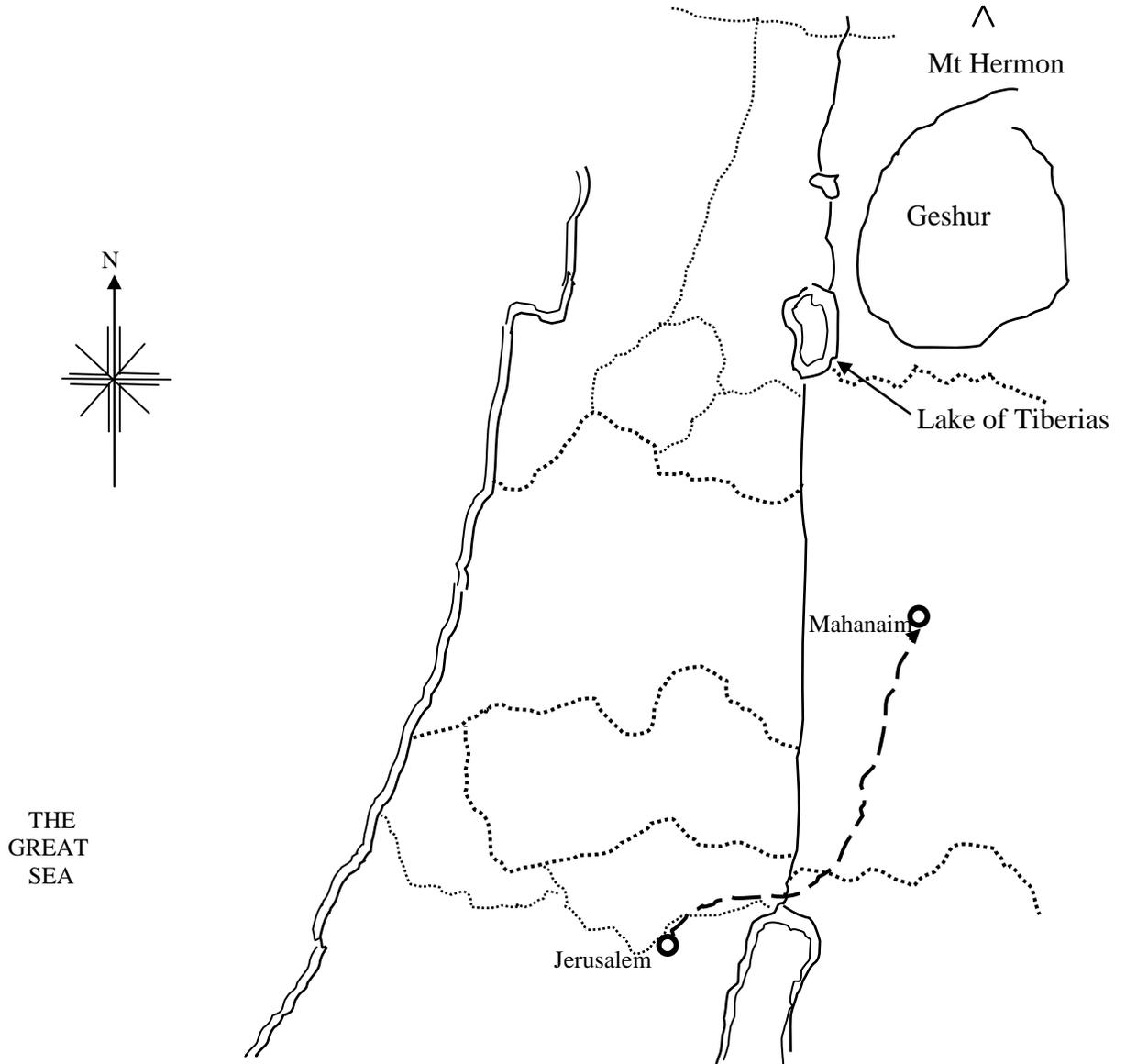
[29.] v:17-22 is a cool little side bar that tells of a few faithful people who saved the king and his followers. How did the women hide Jonathan & Ahimaaz?

[30.] v:21, What message did Jonathan & Ahimaaz give to David?

[31] Looking at v:23, Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed. **Why is this an example of why we (as leaders) can never trust in our own self image?**

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24 Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom crossed the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him. 25 Absalom set Amasa over the army in place of Joab. Now Amasa was the son of a man whose name was Ithra the Israelite, who went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruiah, Joab's mother. 26 And Israel and Absalom camped in the land of Gilead. 27 Now when David had come to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim, 28 brought beds, basins, pottery, wheat, barley, flour, parched grain, beans, lentils, parched seeds, 29 honey, curds, sheep, and cheese of the herd, for David and for the people who were with him, to eat; for they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness."



[32.] Is David retreating in a safe direction or is Absalom pushing him into a trap?

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