

Handout: 2 Samuel Lesson 6

David's loyal friends who are named:

1. David's champions: including his nephews Joab and Abishai.
2. His Gentile warrior units: including Ittai and the men from Gath.
3. Zadok and Abiathar: the chief priests and their sons.
4. Hushai: David's chief counselor ("friend of the king") and his spy in Jerusalem.
5. Ziba: former steward of King Saul who brought David and his family provisions as they fled and brought boats to ferry David and his men back across the Jordan on their return.
6. Prince Shobi: the Gentile Ammonite brought supplies for David's army.
7. Machir: a wealthy Transjordan Israelite brought supplies for David's army.
8. Barzillai: a wealthy Transjordan Israelite brought supplies for David's army.

David's traitorous former friends who are named:

1. Ahithophel: former chief counselor and possibly Bathsheba's grandfather.
2. Amasa: David's nephew and cousin of Joab and Abishai.

The two parts of Ahithophel's advice to Absalom:

1. Take sexual possession of David's concubines to prove that there will be no reconciliation with his father (2 Sam 16:20-23).
2. Allow Ahithophel to lead the army immediately that night to overtake David and his supporters and to kill David (2 Sam 17:1-4).

The two parts of Hushai's plan to thwart Ahithophel's plan to kill David:

1. He points out the shortcomings of Ahithophel's plan: It has no chance of success because of the experience of David and his warriors and the plan can do great harm to Absalom's forces if they lose heart because of significant losses and desert him (2 Sam 17:8-10).
2. He offers an alternate plan: Preparations must be made to increase the number of Absalom's supporters then, with superior numbers and with Absalom leading them, his forces will be able to utterly crush David's army (2 Sam 17:11-13).

David's betrayal by Ahithophel prefigures Judas Iscariot's betrayal of the Son of David, Jesus Christ:

- Both David and Jesus were God's anointed.
- Both Ahithophel and Judas were trusted friends who betrayed their masters.
- Both planned to personally lead soldiers at night to capture their victims.
- Both men hanged themselves in a final act of despair.

There are six symbolic aspects of Absalom's death (six is the number of rebellion in Scripture):

1. Absalom was deprived of the mule, the mount of royalty, as he will now be deprived of the kingdom he sought to usurp (2 Sam 18:9).
2. He is wounded in the heart by Joab's darts, as he wounded the heart of his father in his disloyalty (2 Sam 18:14).
3. The three darts may also represent his three crimes: killing his brother, rebelling against his father, and sexually abusing his father's concubines (2 Sam 13:29; 15:10; 16:22).
4. The number ten in Scripture usually represents divine order. The ten warriors who killed Absalom may represent divine will in the defeat and death of Absalom and the re-establishment of divine order through the death of the usurper (2 Sam 18:15).
5. He, who sought to "steal the hearts" of the Israelites (2 Sam 15:6), now dies in the "heart" of the tree (2 Sam 18:14).
6. He died as one accursed by God, hanging in a tree (Dt 21:22-23; 2 Sam 18:9, 14-15).