

2 Samuel 16.15-17.14 keywords and shape

And **Absalom** and all the men of Israel **went** to Jerusalem; and **Ahithophel** near. When **Hushai** the Archite, **David's friend**, **went** to **Absalom**, **Hushai** said to **Absalom**, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" **Absalom** said to **Hushai**, "Is this your loyalty to your **friend**? Why did you not go with your **friend**?" **Hushai** said to **Absalom**, "No; but the **one** whom YHWH and this people and every man of Israel have chosen, his I will be, and with him I will remain. And the second, toward whose **face** should I serve? Should it not be his son? Just as I have served toward your father's **face**, so I will serve toward your **face**."

Then **Absalom** said to **Ahithophel**, "Come, give **advice**; what shall we do?" **Ahithophel** said to **Absalom**, "**Go** in to your father's concubines, the ones he has left to look after the house; and **all Israel** will hear that you cause a stench in your father's nostrils, and the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened." So they pitched a tent for **Absalom** upon the roof; and **Absalom went** in to his father's concubines in the eyes of **all Israel**.

Now in those days the **advice** that **Ahithophel** advised was as if **one** consulted the word of God; thus was all of **Ahithophel's advice**, both to **David** and to **Absalom**. And **Ahithophel** said to **Absalom**, "Let me choose, please, twelve thousand men, and I will set out and pursue David tonight. **I will go** upon him while he is weary and slack-handed and throw him into a panic; and all the people who are with him will flee. I will strike down only the king, and I will bring all the people back to you [LXX: as a bride comes home to her man]. You seek the life of only **one** man, and all the people will be at peace." The word was good to **Absalom's eye** and all the elders of Israel.

Then **Absalom** said, "Call **Hushai** the Archite also, and let us hear too what is in his mouth." When **Hushai went** to **Absalom**, **Absalom** said to him, "This is the **word Ahithophel** has **worded**; shall we do his **word**? If not, you **word**." Then **Hushai** said to **Absalom**, "This time the **advice** that **Ahithophel** has advised is not good."

Hushai continued, "You know that your **father and his men are warriors**, and that they are bitter, **like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field**. Besides, your father is a man of war; he will not spend the night with the people.

Behold, now he has hidden himself in **one** of the pits, or **one** of the other places. And when some of us fall at the first attack, whoever hears, yes, hears, it will say, 'There has been a slaughter among the people who follow **Absalom**.'

Then even the son of power, whose heart **is like the heart of a lion**, will dissolve, yes, dissolve with fear;

for **all Israel** knows that your **father is a warrior, and that those who are with him are sons of power**.

But my counsel is that **all Israel** be gathered, yes, gathered to you, from Dan to Beer-sheba, like the sand by the sea in number, and your face walking in the midst. So **we shall go** upon him in **one** of, yes, **one** of the places he may be found, and we shall find him there as the dew falls on the ground; and he will not remain, nor all those with him, even **one**. If he gathers into a city, then **all Israel** will bring ropes to that city, and we shall drag it into the valley, until not even a pebble is to be found there."

Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The **advice** of **Hushai** the Archite is better than the **advice** of **Ahithophel**." For YHWH had commanded to defeat the good counsel of **Ahithophel**, so that YHWH **might go** and bring evil on **Absalom**.