

2 Samuel 17.15-18.33 keywords and shape

Then Hushai said to the priests Zadok and Abiathar, "Thus and so did Ahithophel advise **Absalom** and the elders of Israel; and thus and so I have advised.

Therefore send **quickly** and tell **David**, 'Do not lodge tonight at the fords of the wilderness, but **pass over**, yes, **pass over**; otherwise the **king** and all the people who are with him will be swallowed up.'

Jonathan and Ahimaaz were standing at En-rogel; **a servant girl** used to go and tell them, and they would go and tell **King David**; for they could not risk being seen entering the city.

But a boy 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. The woman took a covering, stretched it over the face of the well, and spread out grain on it; and nothing was known of it.

When **Absalom**'s slaves came to **the woman at the house**, they said, "Where are **Ahimaaz and Jonathan**?"

The woman said to them, "They have **passed over** the brook of water." And when they had searched and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

After they had gone, the men came up out of the well, and went and told **King David**. They said to **David**, "**Stand up** and **pass over** the water **quickly**; for thus and so has Ahithophel advised against you." So **David** and all the people who were with him **stood up** and **passed over** the Jordan; by daybreak not one was left who had not crossed the Jordan. When Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he saddled his donkey and **stood up** and went home to his own city. He ordered his house and hanged himself; he died and was buried in the tomb of his father.

Then **David came to Mahanaim**,

while **Absalom passed over** the Jordan with **all the men of Israel**.

Now **Absalom** had set Amasa over the army in the place of Joab. Amasa was the **son** of a man named Ithra the Ishmaelite, who had married Abigail daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruah, Joab's mother.

Israel and **Absalom** encamped in the land of Gilead.

When **David came to Mahanaim** Shobi **son** of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Machir **son** of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim, brought beds, basins, and earthen vessels, wheat, barley, meal, parched grain, beans and lentils, honey and curds, 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."

Then **David** mustered the men who were with him and set over them **commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds**. And **David** sent off the people: one third under the hand of Joab, one third under the hand of Abishai **son** of Zeruah, Joab's brother, and one third under the hand of Ittai the Gittite.

The king said to the men, "I myself will also go out, yes, go out with you."

But the men said, "You shall not go out. For if we flee, yes, flee, they will not put their heart out for us. If half of us die, they will not put their heart out for us. But you are worth ten **thousand** of us; therefore it is better that you send us help, yes, help, from the city."

The king said to them, "Whatever is good in your eyes, I will do."

So the **king** stood at the side of the gate, while all the people marched out **by hundreds and by thousands**.

The **king** ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with *the young man Absalom*." And all the people heard when the **king** gave orders to all the commanders concerning **Absalom**.

So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. The men of **Israel were defeated** there at the faces of **David's** servants, and the slaughter there was **great** on that day, twenty **thousand** men. The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the **forest ate more victims** that day than the sword.

And **Absalom** chanced to be in front of **David's** slaves. **Absalom** was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a **great oak**. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was given between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him **passed over**.

A man saw it, and told Joab, "Behold, I saw **Absalom** hanging in an oak." Joab said to the man who told him, "Behold, you saw him! Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have been glad to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt." But the man said to Joab, "Even if I felt in my hand the weight of a **thousand** pieces of silver, I would not raise my hand against the **king's son**; for in our hearing the **king** commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying: For my sake protect the young man Absalom! On the other hand, if I had made deceit against his life, yes, his life, (and there is nothing hidden from the **king**), then you yourself would have taken your stand opposite." Joab said, "I will not thus wait before your faces."

He took three darts in his hand, and blasted them into the heart of **Absalom**, while he was still alive in the **oak**. And ten young men, Joab's baggage-carriers, surrounded **Absalom** and struck him, and killed him.

Then Joab blasted the trumpet, and the troops came back from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained the troops. They took **Absalom**, threw him into a **great pit in the forest**, and raised over him a very **great** heap of stones. Meanwhile all the **Israelites fled to their tents, yes, tents**. Now **Absalom** in his life, yes, life, had taken and set up for himself a pillar that is in the **King's Valley**, for he said, "I have no **son** to keep my name in remembrance"; he called the pillar by his own name. It is called Hand of **Absalom** to this day.

Then Ahimaaz **son** of Zadok said, "Let me **run**, please, and **carry tidings** to the **king** that YHWH has rescued him from the **HAND OF** his **ENEMIES**." Joab said to him, "You are not to **carry tidings** today; you may **carry tidings** another day, but today you shall not **bring tidings**, because the **king's son** is dead." Then Joab said to a Cushite, "Go, tell the **king** what you have seen." **The Cushite** bowed before Joab and ran. Then Ahimaaz **son** of Zadok said again to Joab, "Come what may, please let me also **run** after the Cushite." And Joab said, "Why will you **run**, my **son**, seeing that you have nothing to obtain for the **tidings**?"

"Come what may," he said, "I will **run**." So he said to him, "**Run, yes, run!**" Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the Plain and **passed over the Cushite**.

Now **David** was sitting between the two gates. The **sentinel** went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he looked up, he saw a man **running** alone. The **sentinel** shouted and told the **king**. The **king** said, "If he is alone, there are **tidings** in his mouth." He went, yes, went and drew near. Then the **sentinel** saw another man **running**; and the **sentinel** called to the gate-keeper and said, "See, another man **running** alone!" The **king** said, "He also is **bringing tidings**." The **sentinel** said, "I think the **running** of the first one is like the **running** of Ahimaaz **son** of Zadok." The **king** said, "He is a good man, and comes with good **tidings**."

Then Ahimaaz cried out to the **king**, "**Shalom!**" He prostrated himself before the **king** with his face to the ground, and said, "Blessed be YHWH your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the **king**." The **king** said, "Is it *shalom* with the young man Absalom?" Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent your slave, I saw a **great** tumult, but I do not know what it was." The **king** said, "Turn aside, and stand here." So he turned aside and stood still.

And behold, **the Cushite** came; and **the Cushite** said, "Good **tidings** for my lord the **king**! For YHWH has judged for you this day, delivering you from the **HAND OF** all who rose up against you." The **king** said to **the Cushite**, "Is it *shalom* with the young man Absalom?" **The Cushite** answered, "May the **ENEMIES** of my lord the **king**, and all who rise up to do you evil, be like that young man." The **king** was shaken, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, "O my **son Absalom**, my **son**, my **son Absalom**! Would I had died instead of you, O **Absalom**, my **son**, my **son**!"