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## The Advice of Ahithophel and Hushai Second Samuel 16:15 to 17:29



The central unit of **Absalom's** (Hebrew: *my father is peace*) rebellion against **his father** and **David's** return to **Yerushalayim** deals with the conflicting advice of **Ahithophel** and **Hushai**. The previous file (**to see link click [Ds - Shim'i Curses David](#)**) ended thus: **The king and all the people with him arrived at their destination exhausted. And there he refreshed himself (Second Samuel 16:14)**. This file ends thus: **The people were exhausted and hungry and thirsty in the wilderness (Second Samuel 17:29)**. **Three key verses**, interspersed throughout (**16:23, 17:14** and **17:24**), provide the clue for analyzing the section as three chiasms arranged within a larger chiastic structure, the clash between **Ahithophel's** advice and **Hushai's** advice serving as a focus for the whole.<sup>413</sup>

**A. Arriving in Jerusalem, Absalom is befriended (16:15-19)**

**B1. Ahithophel** advises Absalom (**16:20-22**)

**B2. Ahithophel is described in glowing terms (16:23)**

**B3. Ahithophel** advises Absalom **(17:1-4)**

**C1. Hushai** advises Absalom **(17:5-13)**

**C2. Hushai's advice is declared better than Ahithophel's (17:14)**

**C3. Hushai** advises Zadok and Abiathar **(17:15-16)**

**B1.** David crosses the Jordan **(17:17-22)**

**B2. Ahithophel commits suicide (17:23)**

**B3.** Absalom crosses the Jordan **(17:24-26)**

**A.** Arriving in Mahanaim, David is befriended **(17:27-29)**