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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.[413]

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)**