

II Samuel 17-21

Historical Books II
Lecture #13

II Samuel

Chapter 17

Ahithophel Defeated

Two Proposals

Ahithophel

- Take 12,000 men right now
- Catch David when he is weak.
- *Would have worked.*

Hushai

- David is a cunning warrior and probably in a good defensive position.
- Gather all of Israel in strength to track down David.
- *Appeals to Absalom's pride*

A Narrow Escape

- Two messengers are sent to warn David of Absalom's plans.
- They escape their pursuers by hiding in a disguised well.
- David and his followers cross Jordan.



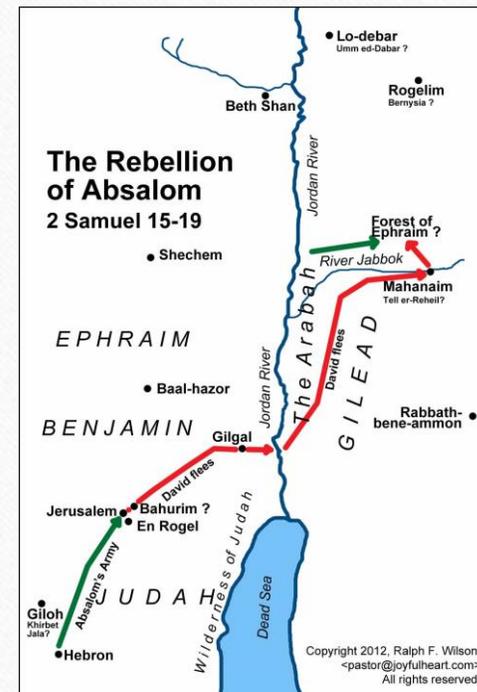
Ahithophel's Suicide

- Ahithophel knew Absalom would be defeated by following Hushai's counsel, so he hangs himself.
- There is some similarity between him and Judas.
- Psalms 41:9 and 55:12-13 speak prophetically of Judas, but likely also about Ahithophel.



Preparing for Battle

- David flees to Mahanaim.
- Absalom crosses Jordan and camps in Gilead.



Who is Amasa?

- Amasa is appointed general over Absalom's army.
- Father – Ithra/Jether, who is either an Israelite or Ishmaelite.
- Mother – Abigail, David's sister
 - Amasa is David's nephew



Supplies

- Shobi, son of Nahash the Ammonite and brother of Hanun.
- Machir, the man who had cared for Mephibosheth
- Barzillai of Gilead



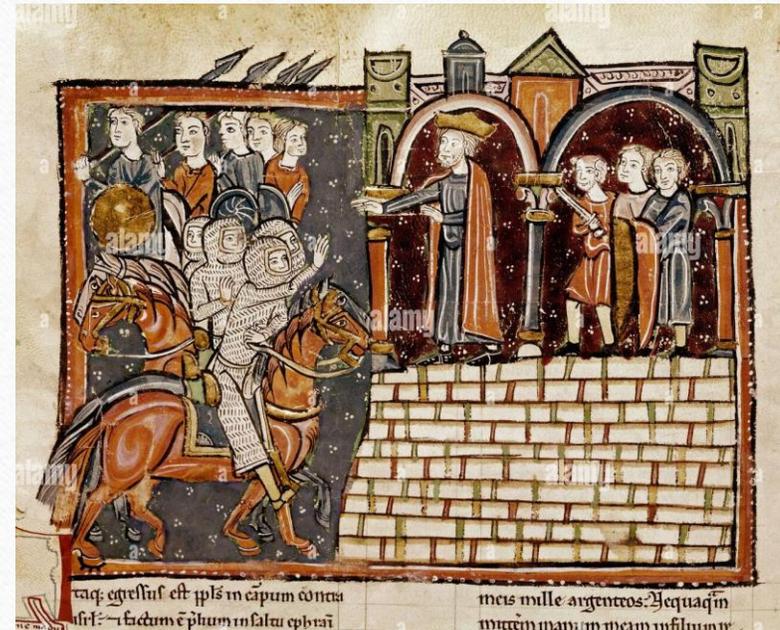
II Samuel

Chapter 18

David vs. Absalom

David's Charge

- David does not go into battle.
 - He would be a target – tactical edge
 - His health is poor.
- His plan is for three commanders – Joab, Abishai, and Ittai – to lead three independent divisions.
- One request – **DO NOT KILL ABSALOM.**



Wood of Ephraim

- Site of battle in Judges 12:4
- Forested, hilly, with many pits and crevices.
- The divided commands of David's men have a tactical edge over the unified command of Absalom/Amasa.



Death of Absalom

- In the disorganized battle, Absalom rides his mule under a tree and his head get caught in the branches.
- Joab is informed of this, and he and his men kill him.
- The battle ends with Absalom's death.

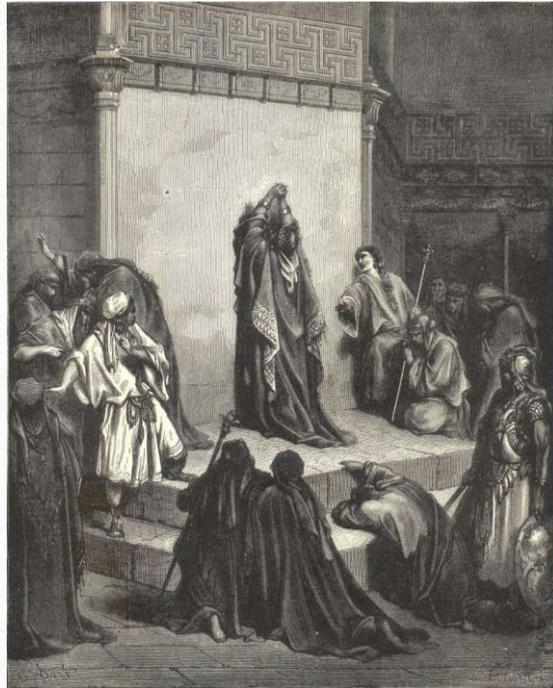


Absalom's End

- He dies a shameful death – Deuteronomy 21:23.
- His burial is reminiscent of the punishment of a rebellious son – Deuteronomy 21:21
- He had anticipated a better death by erecting a monument to himself.



David's Mourning



- Ahimaaz and Cushi race to report to David of the victory and Absalom's death.
- David's grief overshadows the great victory for his forces.

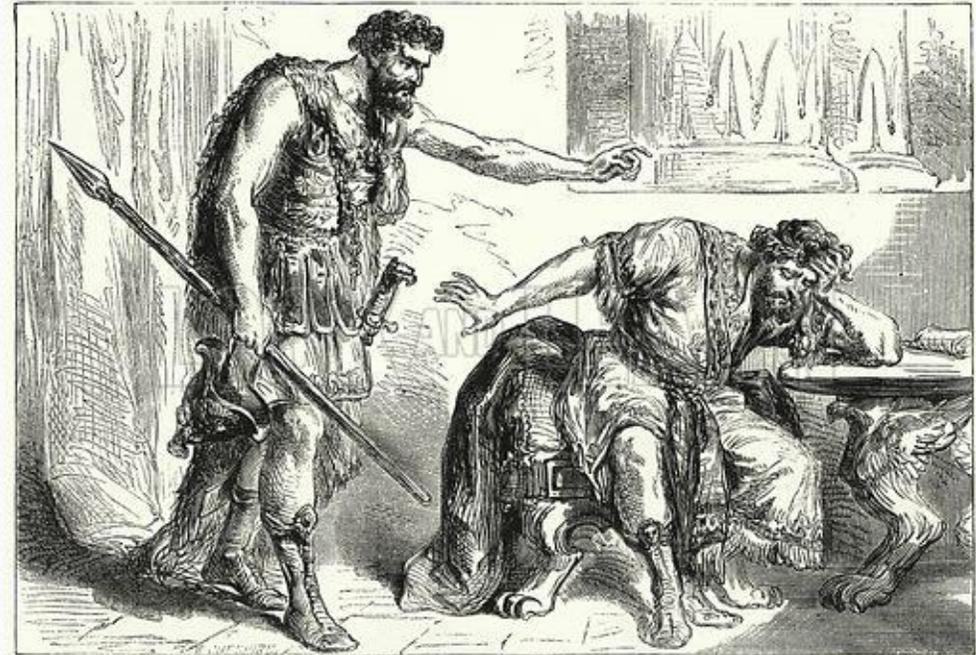
II Samuel

Chapter 19

David's Return

Joab's Rebuke

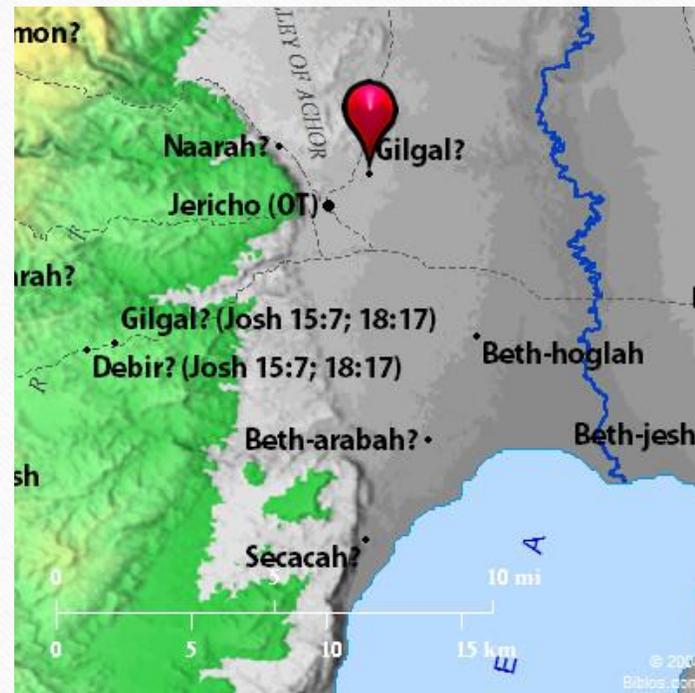
- David's mourning causes the people to mourn.
- Joab rebukes David for mourning over Absalom.



David mourning Absalom.

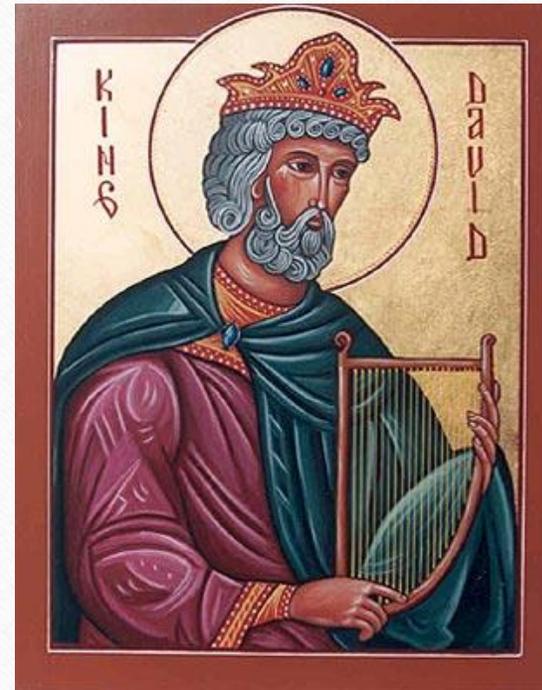
Reestablishing the Kingdom

- David's actions here are cautious.
- Zadok, Abiathar, and Amasa (who will replace Joab as general) bring Judah to reaccept David's rule.
- Judah meets him at Gilgal to escort him home.



Restoring the Throne

- Shimei is spared, for now...
- Mephibosheth has his place restored
- Ziba faces no punishment for his deception and is made steward for Mephibosheth again.
- Barzillai is rewarded.



Rising Tensions

- The old divide between Judah and the other tribes of Israel is reopened.
- The Northern tribes appear to feel slighted in that Judah did not include them in reaccepting David.



II Samuel

Chapter 20

Sheba's Rebellion

Sheba



- A Benjamite named Sheba leads a rebellion of the Northern Tribes against David.
- He is “man of Belial”
- Likely there are tensions from Saul’s day behind this.

David's Response

- David tasks Amasa with raising an army in three day's time.
- Amasa is too slow in this, so David send Abishai.
- Joab murders Amasa on the way to the battle.
- Joab takes command.



Sheba's Defeat



- Sheba's supporters are besieged in the walled city of Abel of Bethmaachah.
- A "wise woman" turned the inhabitants against Sheba.
- They cut off his head and throw it to Joab.



David's Administration

- General – Joab
- Bodyguard – Benaiah
- Tribute – Adoram
- Recorder – Jehoshaphat
- Scribe – Sheva
- High Priests – Zadok and Abiathar
- Chief Ruler - Ira



II Samuel

Chapter 21

David and the Gibeonites

Gibeonites

- God sends a three-year famine on the land because of Saul's murder of Gibeonites.
- This violation of the treaty of Joshua 9 is likely the attack at Nob about 40 years before.
- They request the deaths of seven of Saul's descendants.



Execution of Saul's Sons

- Seven of Saul's sons are turned over to the Gibeonites.
 - David excludes Mephibosheth
- The Gibeonites kill them and hang their bodies on a hill.
- The bodies are left hanging, and Rizpah guards them.



Reinternment of Saul and Jonathon

- David is moved by Rizpah's actions
 - ...and likely because the famine lingered...
- The remains of Saul and Jonathan are moved to their ancestral home in Benjamin.
- The famine finally breaks.



Philistines and Giants

- David goes to battle the Philistines and is almost killed by a giant.
 - He does not go out to battle any more.
- His men become giant-killers.
 - Abishai → Ishbibenob
 - Sibbechai → Saph
 - Elhanan → Lahmi
 - Jonathan → unnamed giant.

