### 2 Samuel

## Chapter 17

1Then AhiThophel said to AbSalom:  
  
 ‘I’ll choose 12,000 men and we’ll go after David tonight; 2for when I get there, he’ll be tired and weak. We’ll catch him unaware and startle him, then his people will flee, and I can kill the king when there’s no one around!  
  
 3‘And after I do that, I’ll carry all his people back to you the way a bride is brought before her husband... So, after [we’ve taken] the life of the man you’re searching for, all the people will be at peace!’  
  
4Well, this sounded like a good idea to AbSalom and all the elders of IsraEl.  
  
5But AbSalom then said:  
  
 ‘Call HuShai the Arachite… I want to hear what he has to say about this.’  
  
6So HuShai came to AbSalom, and AbSalom told him about [AhiThophel’s] plan. Then he asked:  
  
 ‘Do you think we should do what [AhiThophel] is suggesting?  
  
 ‘If not, speak up!’  
  
7And HuShai said to AbSalom:  
  
 ‘This counsel that AhiThophel has given to you isn’t a good idea this time.  
  
 8‘For you know your father and his men… They’re very brave and strong, and they’re as angry as a bear that’s lost its cub in a field, or a wild boar that’s been cornered!  
  
 ‘Also, your father is a warrior, so he would never sleep with his family. 9Look, he’ll be hiding in the hills or somewhere else. So when the attack begins, he’ll hear it and say:  
  
 ‘AbSalom’s people are attacking!’  
  
 10‘However, this mighty man who has the heart of a lion will just melt away once he realizes that he’s finished! For all IsraEl knows how mighty your father and his men are...  
  
 11‘So, this is what I advise:  
  
 ‘Gather all [the men of] IsraEl from Dan to BeerSheba, [and create an army] as large as the sands of the sea… And you should lead them. 12Then, when you catch up with [David] – no matter where he may be – you must camp all around him and [attack him] just as the dew is settling on the ground… Don’t leave him or any of his men alive!  
  
 13‘Or, if you should find him in a city, you must bring all IsraEl against that city, tear it down, and throw each of its stones into a riverbed.’  
  
14Well, AbSalom and all the men of IsraEl said:  
  
 ‘HuShai the Arachite’s counsel is better than AhiThophel’s counsel.’  
  
However, it was Jehovah who had caused the good counsel of AhiThophel to lose out, so that He could bring bad things upon AbSalom!  
  
  
15Then after that, HuShai (the Arachite) sent word to ZaDok and AbiAthar (the Priests), telling them of the advice that AhiThophel had given to AbSalom and the elders of IsraEl.  
  
16And he said:  
  
 ‘Send a message to David quickly, so that the king and his people aren’t caught off guard!’  
  
17It was while JoNathan and AhiMaAz had stopped at RogEl Springs that a young female servant arrived bringing the message [from HuShai], so they traveled on to carry the report to King David... However, although they didn’t want to be seen entering the city, 18a young man had noticed them and he sent a report to AbSalom.  
  
So, the two men ran to the house of someone [they knew] in BaUrim and hid in a cistern in his courtyard. 19And although a woman came and took the cover off the cistern to allow the desert [winds] to cool the water, she didn’t notice them.  
  
20So when AbSalom’s men came to the house and asked her:  
  
 ‘Where are AhiMaAz and JoNathan?’  
  
She just said:  
  
 ‘They went to get some water.’  
  
Well, they looked around but they couldn’t find them, so the men returned to JeruSalem. 21Then after they left, [AhiMaAz and JoNathan] climbed out of the cistern and went to carry the report to King David.  
  
They said to him:  
  
 ‘You must get up and quickly cross the river, for AhiThophel has [planned a trap] for you!’  
  
22Therefore, David and his people got up and crossed the JorDan before daylight, so that no one would know.  
  
  
23In the meantime, when AhiThophel realized that his counsel had been rejected, he saddled his burro and went back to his home… Then he discharged his staff and hung himself!  
  
And thereafter, they buried him in the tomb of his father.  
  
  
24Well, David had traveled all the way to ManaIm, as AbSalom and all his men crossed the JorDan [in pursuit].  
  
  
25Now, AbSalom had put AmaSa in charge of his army (in place of JoAb). AmaSa was JeTher’s son, an IsraElite from JezreEl.  
  
26Then he went to see AbiGail (the daughter of JesSe and the sister of ZeruJah) who was JoAb’s mother, while AbSalom and the army of IsraEl had camped in the land of GileAd.  
  
  
27Meanwhile, after David had entered ManaIm, WesBi (son of NaAs from RabBath, an AmMonite), MachIr (son of AmiEl from LodaBar), and BarZilLai (the GileAdite from RogelLim) 28brought:  
  
 • 10 cots,  
 • Blankets,  
 • 10 pots,  
 • Dishes,  
 • Wheat,  
 • Barley,  
 • Flour,  
 • Toasted grain,  
 • Beans,  
 • Lentils,  
 • 29Honey,  
 • Butter,  
 • Mutton, and   
 • Cheese.  
  
And they gave it to David and his people to eat.  
  
For they said:  
  
 ‘They’re starving, thirsty, and weak from traveling through the desert.’