

{10} II Samuel

King James Version

King James Paraphrase

(4) Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!
 (5) And it was so, that when any man came nigh *to him* to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.
 (6) And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.
 (7) And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron.
 (8) For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.
 (9) And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.
 (10) But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron.
 (11) And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, *that were* called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.

(4) Furthermore Absalom said, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man who has any suit or cause might come to me, and I would do him justice!
 (5) And so it was, that when any man came near *to him* to kneel before him, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.
 (6) And in this manner Absalom acted towards all Israel who came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.
 (7) And it came to pass after forty years^b, that Absalom said to the king, I ask you, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the LORD {Jehovah}, in Hebron.
 (8) Because your servant vowed a vow while I lived at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD {Jehovah} shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD {Jehovah}.
 (9) And the king said to him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.
 (10) But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, Absalom reigns in Hebron^c.
 (11) And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, *who were* called; and they went in their innocence, and they did not know anything {that Absalom was planning}.

15:7b – the 40th year of David's reign [his last year as king]
 15:10c - see note on II Sam. 15:1

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(12) And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, *even* from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.

(13) And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

(14) And David said unto all his servants that *were* with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not *else* escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.

(15) And the king's servants said unto the king, Behold, thy servants *are ready to do* whatsoever my lord the king shall appoint.

(16) And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, *which were* concubines, to keep the house.

(17) And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and tarried in a place that was far off.

(18) And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.

King James Paraphrase

(12) And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city, *even* from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; because the people increased continually with Absalom.

(13) And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

(14) And David said to all his servants that *were* with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; because we shall not escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword.

(15) And the king's servants said to the king, Indeed, your servants *are ready to do* whatever my lord the king shall appoint.

(16) And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, *who were* concubines, to keep the house.

(17) And the king went forth, and all the people after him, and waited in a place that was far off.

(18) And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men who came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.

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(19) Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou *art* a stranger, and also an exile.

(20) Whereas thou camest *but* yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth *be* with thee.

(21) And Ittai answered the king, and said, As the LORD liveth, and *as* my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be.

(22) And David said to Ittai, Go and pass over. And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones that *were* with him.

(23) And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

(24) And lo Zadok also, and all the Levites *were* with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city.

King James Paraphrase

(19) Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, Why do you also go with us? return to your place, and stay with the king: because you *are* a stranger, and also an exile.

(20) Since you came *but* yesterday, should I this day cause you go up and down with us? since I go where I may, return, and take back your brothers: mercy and truth *be* with you.

(21) And Ittai answered the king, and said, As the LORD {Jehovah} lives, and *as* my lord the king lives, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will your servant be.

(22) And David said to Ittai, Go and pass over. And Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones who *were* with him.

(23) And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the road of the wilderness.

(24) And Zadok also, and all the Levites *were* with him, carrying the ark of the covenant of God: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had completed passing out of the city.

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(25) And the king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and shew me *both* it, and his habitation:

(26) But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, *here am* I, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him.

(27) The king said also unto Zadok the priest, *Art not* thou a seer? return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz thy son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

(28) See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me.

(29) Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God again to Jerusalem: and they tarried there.

(30) And David went up by the ascent of *mount Olivet*, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that *was* with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

(31) And *one* told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.

(25) And the king said to Zadok, Carry the ark of God back into the city: if I shall find favor in the eyes of the LORD {Jehovah}, He will bring me again, and show me *both* it, and His house:

(26) But if he says, I have no delight in you; look, *here I am*, let Him do to me as seems good to Him.

(27) The king said also to Zadok the priest, *Are you not* a seer? return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

(28) Indeed, I will wait in the plain of the wilderness, until there comes word from you to certify me.

(29) Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem: and they waited there.

(30) And David went up by the ascent of the *mount of Olives*, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people *who were* with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

(31) And *one* told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD {Jehovah}, I ask You, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.

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(32) And it came to pass, that *when* David was come to the top *of the mount*, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head:

(33) Unto whom David said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me:

(34) But if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy servant, O king; *as I have been* thy father's servant hitherto, so *will* I now also *be* thy servant: then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel.

(35) And *hast thou* not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, *that* what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king's house, thou shalt tell *it* to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

(36) Behold, *they have* there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's son, and Jonathan Abiathar's son; and by them ye shall send unto me every thing that ye can hear.

(37) So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

(32) And it came to pass, that *when* David had come to the top *of the mount*, where he worshiped God, that Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat torn, and earth upon his head:

(33) To whom David said, If you pass on with me, then you shall be a burden to me:

(34) But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, I will be your servant, O king; *as I have been* your father's servant up to now, so I *will* now also *be* your servant: then you may defeat the counsel of Ahithophel for me.

(35) And *have you* not there with you Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, *that* whatever you shall hear out of the king's house, you shall tell *it* to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

(36) Look, *they have* there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok's son, and Jonathan Abiathar's son; and by them you shall send to me everything that you can hear.

(37) So Hushai David's friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

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Chapter 16

(1) And when David was a little past the top of *the hill*, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred *loaves* of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

(2) And the king said unto Ziba, What meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, The asses *be* for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.

(3) And the king said, And where *is* thy master's son? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem: for he said, To day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.

(4) Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine *are* all that *pertained* unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee *that* I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

(5) And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name *was* Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

Chapter 16

(1) And when David was a little past the top of *the hill*, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of donkeys saddled, and upon them two hundred *loaves* of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

(2) And the king said to Ziba, What do you mean by these? And Ziba said, The donkeys *are* for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that those who are faint in the wilderness may drink.

(3) And the king said, And where *is* your master's son? And Ziba said to the king, he remains at Jerusalem: because he said, Today the house of Israel shall restore to me the kingdom of my father.

(4) Then the king said to Ziba, Look, all that *belongs* to Mephibosheth *is* yours. And Ziba said, I humbly ask you *that* I may find grace in your sight, my lord, O king.

(5) And when king David came to Bahurim, from there a man of the family of the house of Saul came out, whose name *was* Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and still cursed as he came.

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(6) And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men *were* on his right hand and on his left.

(7) And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial:

(8) The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou *art taken* in thy mischief, because thou *art* a bloody man.

(9) Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

(10) And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?

(11) And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now *may this* Benjamite *do it?* let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.

King James Paraphrase

(6) And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men *were* on his right hand and on his left.

(7) And this is what Shimei said when he cursed, Come out, come out, you bloody man, and you man of Belial {wickedness}:

(8) The LORD {Jehovah} has returned upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD {Jehovah} has delivered the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom: and, see, you *are taken* in your mischief, because you *are* a bloody man.

(9) Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? I ask you to let me go over, and take off his head.

(10) And the king said, What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD {Jehovah} has said to him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Why have you done so?

(11) And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, See, my son, who came forth of my body, seeks my life: how much more now *may this* Benjamite *do it?* let him alone, and let him curse; because the LORD {Jehovah} has sent him.

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(12) It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.
(13) And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.
(14) And the king, and all the people that *were* with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.
(15) And Absalom, and all the people the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.
(16) And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, God save the king, God save the king.
(17) And Absalom said to Hushai, *Is* this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not with thy friend?
(18) And Hushai said unto Absalom, Nay; but whom the LORD, and this people, and all the men of Israel, choose, his will I be, and with him will I abide.
(19) And again, whom should I serve? *should I not serve* in the presence of his son? as I have served in thy father's presence, so will I be in thy presence.

King James Paraphrase

(12) It may be that the LORD {Jehovah} will look on my affliction, and that the LORD {Jehovah} will repay me good for his cursing this day.
(13) And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side opposite him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.
(14) And the king, and all the people who *were* with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.
(15) And Absalom, and all the people the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.
(16) And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, had come to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, God save the king, God save the king.
(17) And Absalom said to Hushai, *Is* this your kindness to your friend? why did you not go with your friend?
(18) And Hushai said to Absalom, No; but whom the LORD {Jehovah}, and this people, and all the men of Israel, choose, his I will be, and with him I will I stay.
(19) And again, whom should I serve? *should I not serve* in the presence of his son? as I have served in your father's presence, so I will be in your presence.

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(20) Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do.

(21) And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that *are* with thee be strong.

(22) So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

(23) And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, *was* as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so *was* all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

Chapter 17

(1) Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night:

(2) And I will come upon him while he *is* weary and weak handed, and will make him afraid: and all the people that *are* with him shall flee; and I will smite the king only:

(3) And I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seekest *is* as if all returned: so all the people shall be in peace.

King James Paraphrase

(20) Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do.

(21) And Ahithophel^a said to Absalom, Go in to your father's concubines, which he has left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that you are despised by your father: then the hands of all who *are* with you shall be strong.

(22) So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

(23) And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counseled in those days, *was* as if a man had inquired at the oracle of God: so *was* all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

Chapter 17

(1) Furthermore Ahithophel said to Absalom, Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night:

(2) And I will come upon him while he *is* weary and weak handed, and will make him afraid: and all the people who *are* with him shall flee; and I will strike the king only:

(3) And I will bring back all the people to you: the man whom you seek *is* as if all returned: so all the people shall be in peace.

16:21a - Ahithophel the grandfather of Bathsheba - II Sam. 11:3; 23:34 - some believe he said these things to get revenge for what David did to Bathsheba