

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[2Sa 16:1-23 NKJV] 1 When David was a little past the top [of the mountain], there was Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth, who met him with a couple of saddled donkeys, and on them two hundred [loaves] of bread, one hundred clusters of raisins, one hundred summer fruits, and a skin of wine. 2 And the king said to Ziba, "What do you mean to do with these?" So Ziba said, "The donkeys [are] for the king's household to ride on, the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the wine for those who are faint in the wilderness to drink." 3 Then the king said, "And where [is] your master's son?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is staying in Jerusalem, for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will restore the kingdom of my father to me.' " 4 So the king said to Ziba, "Here, all that [belongs] to Mephibosheth [is] yours." And Ziba said, "I humbly bow before you, [that] I may find favor in your sight, my lord, O king!"

When David became King of Israel, he asked his servants to find if there was anyone left in from the house of King of Saul – 2 Sam 9

And so they find Mephibosheth – he is the son of Jonathan, David's friend.

And they tell David that when the family found out that Saul was dead – Mephibosheth's nurse picks him up so that they could flee – because in those days, anytime a new king came to power, one of the first things that they would do is hunt down and kill anyone with ties to the throne.

So as the nurse is carrying Mephibosheth, she drops him and he suffers an injury that left him lame for the rest of his life.

David shows kindness to Mephibosheth – takes him under his wing, giving him all the land that Saul had – and he appoints this individual Ziba to be the caretaker of the land.

So at first David is surprised by the generosity of Ziba – after all he has had a rough couple of hours with everything that is happening back home.

Ziba then tells David that Mephibosheth upon hearing the news of what was happening to David, decided to remain in Jerusalem because he was anticipating being named the next king –

David then responds to Ziba by telling him that all of Mephibosheth's land is now his.

Now, in a couple of chapters, when David returns to Jerusalem, there is going to be a much different version that Mephibosheth tells David –

Leading many to believe that Ziba took advantage of the situation to manipulate David into getting the land for himself.

[Proverbs 18:17 NKJV] 17 The first [one] to plead his cause [seems] right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.

David was fooled –

He should have heard both sides of the story before making his rash decision and he should have consulted with the Lord.

5 Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name [was] Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came. 6 And he threw 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 Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue! 8 "The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you [are caught] in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!"

Here we have this individual Shimei – he is a relative of King Saul – and when he sees King David walking by with his men at his side, he begins to curse at him and throw rocks at them.

And as he is cursing David, he tells him that God is punishing him for everything he had done to Saul and his sons.

But David wasn't the one who killed Saul, Jonathan or even Ishbosheth –

In fact, time and time again, David had the opportunity to kill Saul but he spared his life.

Shimei is someone who kicks someone when he/she is down.

He never had the guts to tell David this while he was the reigning king – Yet now that David looks like he is on his way out, Shimei has the courage to vent all his anger at David.

[Pro 24:17-18 NKJV] 17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; 18 Lest the LORD see [it], and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him.

9 Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!" 10 But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the LORD has said to him, 'Curse David.' Who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?' " 11 And David said to Abishai and all his servants, "See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now [may this] Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the LORD has ordered him.

12 "It may be that the LORD will look on my affliction, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing this day."

Abishai – one of David's nephews – he is getting tired of the disrespect that Shimei is showing toward David – and he asks for permission not just to shut him up but to kill him.

After all, he was violating God's law – in Exodus 22, it prohibited the Children of Israel from cursing their ruler.

But David tells his nephew to leave him alone –

He knows that what is happening to him right now is a result of his sin – how does he know?

Because God told him that all this was going to happen.

And if God is going to chastise him or correct him – he doesn't want to reject it.

He is going to let God take care of it.

Jesus during His ministry, He was reviled, insulted, mocked and ultimately killed. Yet

He never defended Himself or put down those that were putting Him down.

He died without defending His rights, His reputation or His ministry.

And we are to follow in His footsteps – just like David.

13 And as David and his men went along the road, Shimei went along the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went, threw stones at him and kicked up dust.

After all of this ends, David is going to have another encounter with Shimei – and David is going to show mercy toward him and vowed not to kill him – despite everything he did to him.

However, on his death bed, he provides instruction to Solomon to enact judgment upon Shimei – because of his rebellious ways.

14 Now the king and all the people who [were] with him became weary; so they refreshed themselves there.

David and his people get to the Jordan River and they stop on the western side without crossing it.

Here they were able to catch their breath and enjoy a little peace and quiet after all that had happened.

You see, David was able to be refreshed because he had placed his trust on the Lord. He knew that God was in control – so this enabled him to be refreshed.

15 Meanwhile Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem; and Ahithophel [was] with him. 16 And so it was, when Hushai the Archite,

David's friend, came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "[Long] live the king! [Long] live the king!"

Hushai was one of David's friends who wanted to go with David but David told him to return to Jerusalem and serve Absalom.

And you might remember from our study last week that as he served Absalom, he was supposed to be a spy and counter the advice that Ahithophel was going to give Absalom.

Ahithophel served under David but he became bitter toward him because of what happened with Bathsheba – Bathsheba was his granddaughter – so when Absalom rebelled – he was quick to join the rebellion.

And as we will see – Ahithophel is still very bitter toward David.

17 So Absalom said to Hushai, "[Is] this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?" 18 And Hushai said to Absalom, "No, but whom the LORD and this people and all the men of Israel choose, his I will be, and with him I will remain. 19 "Furthermore, whom should I serve? [Should I] not [serve] in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father's presence, so will I be in your presence."

When Hushai is questioned why he didn't go with David, Hushai tells Absalom that his loyalty is to the Nation of Israel and its king.

20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give advice as to what we should do." 21 And Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; and all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strong." 22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

Absalom goes to Ahithophel for advice – What do we do next?

And Ahithophel tells Absalom to take the 10 concubines that David left behind – put a tent on the roof of the palace – by the way, the same roof that David walked when he saw and lusted after Bathsheba.

Ahithophel counsels Absalom to have sex with David's concubines.

This is a fulfillment of what Nathan had told David back in chapter 12 – that one of his sons was going to sleep with his wives and all of Israel was going to see.

By doing this – Ahithophel is forcing Absalom to burn any bridge between him and David. There is no going back to David being king – as long as Absalom is alive. There is no longer the possibility for reconciliation between David and Absalom.

23 Now the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, [was] as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. So [was] all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

Here in verse 23 – the reader is reminded that Ahithophel always gave good advice – he was a smart dude.

However, there is a difference between good advice and godly or righteous advice.

[2Sa 17:1-29 NKJV] 1 Moreover Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Now let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight. 2 "I will come upon him while he [is] weary and weak, and make him afraid. And all the people who [are] with him will flee, and I will strike only the king. 3 "Then I will bring back all the people to you. When all return except the man whom you seek, all the people will be at peace." 4 And the saying pleased Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

Ahithophel provides Absalom good council here – he tells him that now is the perfect time to go after David – Ahithophel is volunteering to lead the small force that will go and kill David.

Absalom heard it – the elders of Israel heard it and everyone thought it was a good idea..

5 Then Absalom said, "Now call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he says too." 6 And when Hushai came to Absalom, Absalom spoke to him, saying, "Ahithophel has spoken in this manner. Shall we do as he says? If not, speak up." 7 So Hushai said to Absalom: "The advice that Ahithophel has given [is] not

good at this time. 8 "For," said Hushai, "you know your father and his men, that they [are] mighty men, and they [are] enraged in their minds, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field; and your father [is] a man of war, and will not camp with the people. 9 "Surely by now he is hidden in some pit, or in some [other] place. And it will be, when some of them are overthrown at the first, that whoever hears [it] will say, 'There is a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.' 10 "And even he [who is] valiant, whose heart [is] like the heart of a lion, will melt completely. For all Israel knows that your father [is] a mighty man, and [those] who [are] with him [are] valiant men. 11 "Therefore I advise that all Israel be fully gathered to you, from Dan to Beersheba, like the sand that [is] by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person. 12 "So we will come upon him in some place where he may be found, and we will fall on him as the dew falls on the ground. And of him and all the men who [are] with him there shall not be left so much as one. 13 "Moreover, if he has withdrawn into a city, then all Israel shall bring ropes to that city; and we will pull it into the river, until there is not one small stone found there."

Hushai's council is much different than Ahithophel – he advises that they should wait before they attack David and when they do attack, they should do it with a much bigger army than Ahithophel suggested – plus, Absalom should lead them – not Ahithophel.

Also, Hushai advises that they shall kill everyone and not just David.

14 So Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Archite [is] better than the advice of Ahithophel." For the LORD had purposed to defeat the good advice of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring disaster on Absalom.

In our study last week, when David found out that Ahithophel had switched to advising Absalom, he prayed that the Lord may make his council foolish.

God answered David's prayer by first bringing Hushai to him and then using Hushai's council to stop Ahithophel.

Now, why did Absalom choose Hushai's council instead of Ahithophel who had a record of always providing good council –

Because he played into Absalom's pride.

Hushai's advice provided him with a greater victory – Ahithophel only wanted to kill David.

Also, Hushai's advice had Absalom leading an entire nation against David instead of Ahithophel leading.

15 Then Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Thus and so Ahithophel advised Absalom and the elders of Israel, and thus and so I have advised. 16 "Now therefore, send quickly and tell David, saying, 'Do not spend this night in

the plains of the wilderness, but speedily cross over, lest the king and all the people who [are] with him be swallowed up.' "

Zadok was another individual that wanted to go with David and David told him to return to Jerusalem.

His two sons were going to be the ones that would get word to David about what Absalom was planning.

So Hushai sends word to tell David about the two plans – and he warns him to hurry up and cross the Jordan just in case Absalom changes his mind and chooses Ahithophel's advice.

17 Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed at En Rogel, for they dared not be seen coming into the city; so a female servant would come and tell them, and they would go and tell King David. 18 Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom. But both of them went away quickly and came to a man's house in Bahurim, who had a well in his court; and they went down into it. 19 Then the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground grain on it; and the thing was not known. 20 And when Absalom's servants came to the woman at the house, they said, "Where [are] Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" So the woman said to them, "They have gone over the water brook." And when they had searched and could not find [them], they returned to Jerusalem. 21 Now it came to pass,

after they had departed, that they came up out of the well and went and told King David, and said to David, "Arise and cross over the water quickly. For thus has Ahithophel advised against you." 22 So David and all the people who [were] with him arose and crossed over the Jordan. By morning light not one of them was left who had not gone over the Jordan.

The two messengers were almost caught getting the message to David.

And we see them hidden by this woman.

This is very similar to Rahab in the book of Joshua that hid the spies –

Why didn't she reveal that they were in the well???

The reason could be that some people rejected Absalom after what he had done to David's concubines –

So here – the two sons were able to warn David and they all crossed the river into safety.

23 Now when Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he saddled a donkey, and arose and went home to his house, to his city. Then he put his household in order, and **hanged himself, and died**; and he was buried in his father's tomb.

Why did Ahithophel kill himself?

It wasn't because he didn't get his way – remember, he was a very smart guy.

He killed himself because he knew that Absalom would be defeated by following Hushai's advice, and so he thought it would be better to take his own life instead of having to face David after he defeats Absalom.

His own bitterness killed him.

The irony of it all is that Ahithophel may have had bitterness and anger over David's adulterous affair with Bathsheba, but because he took his own life, he never gets to see his great grandson Solomon become crowned king.

24 Then David went to Mahanaim. And Absalom crossed over the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

Mahanaim is where David is going to set up camp and run his war against Absalom.

25 And Absalom made Amasa captain of the army instead of Joab. This Amasa [was] the son of a man whose name [was] Jithra, an Israelite, who had gone in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruah, Joab's mother. 26 So Israel and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilead.

Absalom is leading the Israeli army – the problem with that is that Absalom was never a warrior – in fact he didn't kill Amnon with his bare hands – he commanded his servants to kill him –

So he's inexperienced, he puts another one of his cousins as captain of the army – Joab was the one with experience but he is with David.

27 Now it happened, when David had come to Mahanaim, that **Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the people of Ammon, **Machir** the son of Ammiel from Lo Debar, and **Barzillai** the Gileadite from Rogelim, 28 brought beds and basins, earthen vessels and wheat, barley and flour, parched [grain] and beans, lentils and parched [seeds], 29 honey and curds, sheep and cheese of the herd, for David and the people who [were] with him to eat. For they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness."**

These three individuals all had reason not to help David.

Shobi – his brother is the one in chapter 10 that had humiliated the ambassadors that David had sent to Ammon – so in return David waged war against them.

Shobi could have said, I'm not helping David after what he did to my family.

Machir, he was the one who was hiding and taking care of Mephibosheth – he could have said – let someone else help David

Barzillai as we will see in the next few weeks, he was 80 years old – he could have easily said, "Let someone else do it" I'm too old to help out.

Church, how many times have we made the decision not help someone else because of something they did to us –

Or because we feel that we have already served long enough.

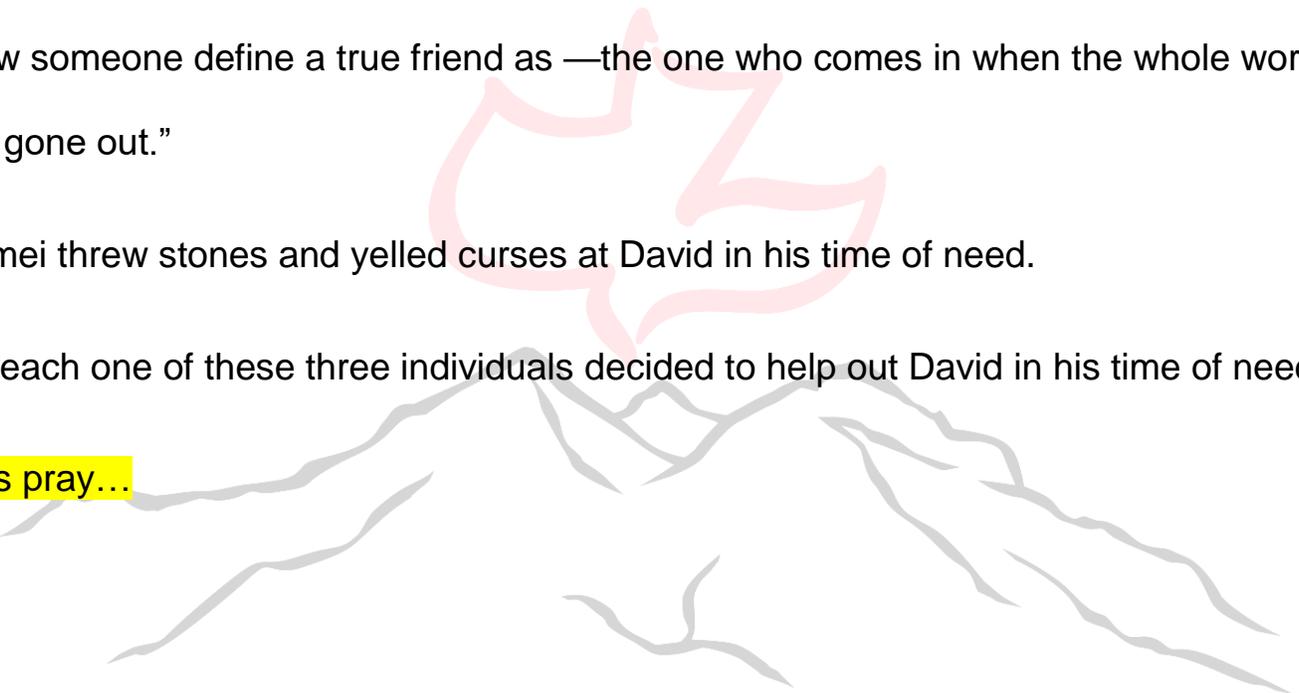
Church, we are commanded to help people in their time of need –

I saw someone define a true friend as —the one who comes in when the whole world has gone out.”

Shimei threw stones and yelled curses at David in his time of need.

But each one of these three individuals decided to help out David in his time of need.

Let's pray...



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