

Precise Preparations

2 Samuel 17:1-29

- Absalom's supporters ready themselves to defeat David.
- No way a conflict of this nature could be resolved without bloodshed.

1. Attack and Defeat – v. 1-14

- 1: 12,000 men: a goal of usurping D then becoming king > only way to keep Bathsheba (grand) & Solomon (g-grand) alive.
- Tonight: night of the day D fled Jerusalem; not certain if Absalom has taken concubines
- 3: if you only kill D there will be no civil war
- 4: ready to kill father shows how far he had fallen
- 5-14 both advice designed to kill D
- 7: this time: Hushai thought the advice for the concubines was good advice. A masterpiece of a speech yet not all correct: D resting with the people.
- 8-10: well-founded statement of D's bravery & heroism
- 11: riding in royal clothing appealing to Absalom
- 12: victory as great as the dew on the ground
- 14: both plans not perfect but Hushai's still the best; Divine Providence accounted for the rejection of Ahithophel's plan.

2. David's Discernment – v. 15-22

- 15: Hushai not a part of the final planning: warned either plan could be followed.
- 17: frequentative verb tense: repeatedly happening. It would have taken time to get army and courage (and defile 10 concubines)
- Woman: going to the well aroused no suspicion as women usually drew the water.
- 19: scattered: Vulgate: like drying barley
- 20: not a reference to Jordan but a small stream
- 21-22: Henry: here is where D penned Ps. 42 and Ps. 43; cf. Ps. 42:6

3. Ahithophel's Suicide – v. 23-29

- 23: 4 suicides in Scripture: King Saul, 1S 31:5; Ahithophel: 2S 17:23; Zimri: 1K 16:18; Judas Iscariot: Mt. 27:5

- 24: Manahaim: well-situated for a temporary capital; very fruitful area and Mephibisheth's capital: easily defending
- 25: Abigail & Zeruriah were D's sisters; Nabash was Jesse's wife. Civil war inevitable.
- Absalom's popularity not as universal as he thought. D had a remarkable power for winning the affections of men.
- 27: Shobi: D had shown him kindness with the capture of Rabbah.
- Amiel: son of Ahithophel, father of Bathsheba, Machi her brother
- Barzillai: ancestor through a family of priests; they returned from Babylonian captivity with Ezra (2:61-63).

Lessons:

1. We must all be sure to weigh every option. When dealing with Biblical teaching, we are commanded to test every spirit, 1 John 4:1.
2. Once D heard news he had to move, he moved. Great leaders of the Bible have always been movers.
3. Ahithophel was so upset when his advice was not taken that he took his own life. There is nothing in this life so bad that it warrants us to take our own life. There is always a way out of sticky situations!

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