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YouTube Prayer Link

Wait patiently on Jehovah

In 2 Samuel chapter 17, Ahithophel, one of Absalom's advisers, advises him to immediately pursue and attack David. However, another named Hushai proposed a different strategy, encouraging Absalom to gather a large army and personally lead it into battle. He also advised Absalom to wait for an opportunity to catch David off guard, rather than attacking him immediately. Absalom chose to follow Hushai's plan, and David received news of the rebellion plan through a spy named Jonathan and his son Ahimaz. David and his followers used this information to escape and cross the Jordan River. Meanwhile, Absalom and his army pursued them, but were eventually defeated by David's army in the ensuing battle. This chapter shows the political intrigue and cunning tactics of both sides of the conflict. It also highlights the loyalty of David's followers and how they risked their lives to protect him.

Jesus and David were discriminately considerate of the needs and interests of others, while Absalom or Ahithophel were self-centered, loving to receive the glory that comes from men, and living only to satisfy their own desires. This means that a government that opposes God and does many unrighteous acts will one day fall!

As members of the Messianic camp, we are to live Christ-like lives, to love God with all our hearts, minds, and strength, to envision God and to others, and to live a quality of life that reflects God's love and concern for others.

Through Hushai, God sabotaged Ahithophel's plan and prevented Absalom from pursuing David to secure his throne. Ahithophel gave the same idea as if he had asked for God's will, but Absalom didn't take it seriously, and he thought that Hushai's idea was better than Ahithophel's!

He pointed to God to punish Absalom and foreshadowed the fall of Absalom's government like the city of Jericho.

When David "waited patiently on the Lord" (Psalm 41) in the wilderness, his relationship with God became closer. When he left the palace and went into the wilderness, he was renewed in his spirit: "O God, Thou art my God, and I will earnestly seek Thee, and I thirst for Thee in a land of drought and weariness and without water; My soul longs for Thee" (Psalm 63:1). At this time, Jonathan and Ahimaaz arrived with important information.

David crossed the river by night (v.22), knowing that God had not forsaken him, despite the darkness of the circumstances. Because when he didn't know anything, God had arranged for him to save and help him. So David said, "I lie down and sleep, and I am awake, and the Lord blesses me. I will not be afraid that thousands of people will come against me around me" (Psalm 3:5-6)

Wait patiently on Jehovah

When we are distraught and in turmoil, it is crucial to wait patiently for God's voice. In this hectic and noisy world, we are often caught up in anxiety and confusion, longing for guidance and comfort. However, God's voice is often small and quiet, and can only be heard when we are quiet and attentive in our hearts. Waiting patiently for God's voice means letting go of anxiety and insecurity and coming to God's revelation with faith and devotion.

As we wait for God's voice, we also need to learn to have a deeper relationship with God. It's not something that happens overnight, it's something that takes a lot of effort. We can strengthen our connection with God by praying, meditating on the Bible, participating in church activities, and sharing spiritual experiences with other Christians. Such practices can help us feel God's presence more acutely and hear His voice more easily.

While we wait for God's voice, learn to listen to our inner voice. God often communicates with us through our inner feelings and intuition. Therefore, always be vigilant and pay attention to the inner impressions and revelations. At the same time, we need to be humble and reverent, not to interpret God's will in a self-righteous way, but to be willing to obey His guidance and submit to His plan.

Above all, waiting patiently for God's voice means trusting and relying on God. We need to believe that God's timing is perfect and His plan is the best. Even when we are struggling and confused as we wait, we must have faith that God will reveal His will to us at the right time. So let's commit our anxieties and insecurities to God, rely on Him with all our hearts, and wait patiently for His voice until we hear and understand His call and direction for us.

There are several passages in the Bible that teach us to wait patiently for God's voice, including:

Isaiah 40:31: "But he that waits for the LORD will have strength again." They shall rise up like eagles with wings; They run and do not get tired, and they walk but do not grow tired. "

Psalm 27:14: "Wait for Yahweh; When you are strong, your heart is patient; You should wait for Yahweh. "

Lamentations 3:25: "Yahweh be well to those who wait for him, and to those whose hearts seek him." "

James 5:7-8: "Therefore, brothers, endure until the Lord comes. Behold, the farmer waited patiently for the precious fruit of the field, until he received the early rain and the spring rain. Be patient and strengthen your hearts, for the coming day of the Lord is near. "

These verses teach us to be steadfast, patient, and to trust that the timing is perfect when we wait for God. By waiting in faith, God will reveal His will to us at the right time.

### We pray together

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us every moment of time, for creating the concept of time and for manifesting Your beauty and wisdom in it. Today, we gather in Your presence to pray to You for revelation and experience of the truth about the beauty of Your time.

Lord, we admit that sometimes we can be anxious and impatient, and often want to organize everything on our own schedule. However, Your Word tells us that Your time is the most beautiful time. May You give us the understanding that Your timing is perfect and Your plan is the best. In the midst of waiting, give us firm faith and a submissive will, and may we be able to wait quietly for Your guidance.

Lord, sow the seeds of peace and joy in our hearts, so that we will not be anxious or irritable while waiting for You, but will be filled with faith and hope. May Your love surround us, and Your peace guard our hearts so that we can wait quietly for Your grace and blessings.

May we learn to cherish every moment and find the beauty in Your time. May we learn to rely on You and fully trust Your guidance and leading. May we bless Your name in all times, for You are our Lord and Redeemer.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

### 2Samuel chapter 17

2Sa. 17:1 Ahithophel said to Absalom, "I would [Or Let me] choose twelve thousand men and set out tonight in pursuit of David. 2Sa. 17:2 I would [Or will] attack him while he is weary and weak. I would [Or will] strike him with terror, and then all the people with him will flee. I would [Or will] strike down only the king 2Sa. 17:3 and bring all the people back to you. The death of the man you seek will mean the return of all; all the people will be unharmed."

2Sa. 17:4 This plan seemed good to Absalom and to all the elders of Israel.

2Sa. 17:5 But Absalom said, "Summon also Hushai the Arkite, so that we can hear what he has to say."

2Sa. 17:6 When Hushai came to him, Absalom said, "Ahithophel has given this advice. Should we do what he says? If not, give us your opinion."

2Sa. 17:7 Hushai replied to Absalom, “The advice Ahithophel has given is not good this time.

2Sa. 17:8 You know your father and his men; they are fighters, and as fierce as a wild bear robbed of her cubs. Besides, your father is an experienced fighter; he will not spend the night with the troops.

2Sa. 17:9 Even now, he is hidden in a cave or some other place. If he should attack your troops first, [Or When some of the men fall at the first attack] whoever hears about it will say, ‘There has been a slaughter among the troops who follow Absalom.’

2Sa. 17:10 Then even the bravest soldier, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will melt with fear, for all Israel knows that your father is a fighter and that those with him are brave.

2Sa. 17:11 “So I advise you: Let all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba — as numerous as the sand on the seashore — be gathered to you, with you yourself leading them into battle.

2Sa. 17:12 Then we will attack him wherever he may be found, and we will fall on him as dew settles on the ground. Neither he nor any of his men will be left alive.

2Sa. 17:13 If he withdraws into a city, then all Israel will bring ropes to that city, and we will drag it down to the valley until not even a piece of it can be found.”

2Sa. 17:14 Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “The advice of Hushai the Arkite is better than that of Ahithophel.” For the LORD had determined to frustrate the good advice of Ahithophel in order to bring disaster on Absalom.

2Sa. 17:15 Hushai told Zadok and Abiathar, the priests, “Ahithophel has advised Absalom and the elders of Israel to do such and such, but I have advised them to do so and so.

2Sa. 17:16 Now send a message immediately and tell David, ‘Do not spend the night at the fords in the desert; cross over without fail, or the king and all the people with him will be swallowed up.’“

2Sa. 17:17 Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying at En Rogel. A servant girl was to go and inform them, and they were to go and tell King David, for they could not risk being seen entering the city.

2Sa. 17:18 But a young man saw them and told Absalom. So the two of them left quickly and went to the house of a man in Bahurim. He had a well in his courtyard, and they climbed down into it. 2Sa. 17:19 His wife took a covering and spread it out over the opening of the well and scattered grain over it. No-one knew anything about it.

2Sa. 17:20 When Absalom’s men came to the woman at the house, they asked, “Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?” The woman answered them, “They crossed over the brook.” [Or “They passed by the sheep pen towards the water.”] The men searched but found no-one, so they returned to Jerusalem.

2Sa. 17:21 After the men had gone, the two climbed out of the well and went to inform King David. They said to him, “Set out and cross the river at once; Ahithophel has advised such and such against you.”

2Sa. 17:22 So David and all the people with him set out and crossed the Jordan. By daybreak, no-one was left who had not crossed the Jordan.

2Sa. 17:23 When Ahithophel saw that his advice had not been followed, he saddled his donkey and set out for his house in his home town. He put his house in order and then hanged himself. So he died and was buried in his father’s tomb.

2Sa. 17:24 David went to Mahanaim, and Absalom crossed the Jordan with all the men of Israel.

217:25 Absalom had appointed Amasa over the army in place of

Joab. Amasa was the son of a man named Jether, [Hebrew

Ithra, a variant of Jether] an Israelite [Hebrew and some Septuagint manuscripts; other Septuagint manuscripts (see also 1 Chron. 2:17) Ishmaelite or Jezreelite] who had married Abigail, [Hebrew Abigal, a variant of Abigail] the daughter of Nahash and sister of Zeruiah the mother of Joab.

2Sa. 17:26 The Israelites and Absalom camped in the land of Gilead.

2Sa. 17:27 When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi son of Nahash from

Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Makir son of Ammiel from

Lo Debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim

2Sa. 17:28 brought bedding and bowls and articles of pottery. They also brought wheat and barley, flour and roasted grain, beans and lentils, [Most Septuagint manuscripts and Syriac; Hebrew lentils, and roasted grain]

2Sa. 17:29 honey and curds, sheep, and cheese from cows’ milk for David and his people to eat. For they said, “The people have become hungry and tired and thirsty in the desert.”

In chapter 17 of the book of 2 Samuel, Ahithophel, one of Absalom's advisors, advises him to pursue and attack David immediately. However, another advisor named Hushai suggests a different strategy, encouraging Absalom to gather a large army and personally lead it into battle. He also advises Absalom to wait for the opportunity to catch David off guard rather than attacking him right away. Absalom chooses to follow Hushai's plan, and David receives word of the rebellion's plans through a spy named Jonathan and his son Ahimaaz. David and his followers use this information to escape and cross the Jordan River. Meanwhile, Absalom and his army pursue them, but are ultimately defeated by David's forces in the ensuing battle. The chapter showcases the political intrigue and the cunning strategies employed by both sides in the

conflict. It also highlights the loyalty of David's followers and how they risked their lives to protect him.

Chapter 17 of the book of 2 Samuel continues the story of Absalom's rebellion and the events leading up to the final battle between him and David's loyalists. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Moreover, Ahithophel said to Absalom, 'Let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight.'" (2 Samuel 17:1) - This verse shows Ahithophel's counsel to Absalom, urging him to take immediate action against David and his followers. Ahithophel was a former adviser to David who defected to Absalom's side, and his advice was highly respected.
2. "For the Lord had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the Lord might bring harm upon Absalom." (2 Samuel 17:14) - This verse shows that despite Ahithophel's wise counsel, God was working behind the scenes to thwart his plans and bring about Absalom's downfall. This emphasizes the theme of divine sovereignty in the book of 2 Samuel.
3. "Then Joab said to the Cushite, 'Go, tell the king what you have seen.' The Cushite bowed before Joab, and ran." (2 Samuel 17:21) - This verse shows Joab's cunning strategy to deceive Absalom by sending a messenger to him with false information about David's whereabouts. Joab was one of David's most trusted military commanders, and his role in the battle against Absalom was crucial.

Overall, chapter 17 of 2 Samuel portrays the escalating tension and intrigue surrounding the conflict between David and Absalom. It shows the strategic thinking and scheming of both sides, as well as the overarching role of God in determining the outcome of the conflict.

In 2 Samuel Chapter 17, we witness the strategic counsel given to Absalom by Ahithophel and Hushai, as well as their contrasting advice regarding David's fate. Here are some key reflections from the chapter:

**Ahithophel's Wise Counsel:** Ahithophel, known for his wisdom, provides Absalom with a plan to quickly pursue and capture David, thereby eliminating any chance of David's forces regrouping. Ahithophel's advice is seen as wise and strategic, indicating his loyalty to Absalom and his desire to secure Absalom's position as king. This reflects the importance of seeking wise counsel and the potential consequences of disregarding it.

**Hushai's Counterplan:** Hushai, a loyal friend of David, infiltrates Absalom's inner circle and offers an alternative plan to counter Ahithophel's counsel. Hushai's plan aims to buy David time and delay Absalom's pursuit, giving David an opportunity to gather his forces and prepare for

battle. Hushai's actions highlight the importance of loyalty and the role of strategic thinking in navigating difficult situations.

**Divine Intervention:** While Ahithophel's counsel is highly regarded, it is Hushai's counterplan that ultimately prevails. The text suggests that God intervenes by turning Absalom's heart away from Ahithophel's advice, ensuring that Hushai's plan is implemented. This demonstrates the sovereignty of God and His ability to influence human decisions and outcomes.

**Strategic Thinking and Timing:** Chapter 17 emphasizes the significance of strategic thinking and timing in decision-making. The plans presented by both Ahithophel and Hushai reveal the importance of weighing options, considering the long-term implications, and being aware of the broader context. It serves as a reminder of the need for wisdom and discernment in navigating complex situations.

**The Role of Loyalty:** The chapter highlights the significance of loyalty and the impact it can have in shaping the outcome of events. Hushai's loyalty to David and his willingness to risk his own safety to serve David's interests play a crucial role in averting immediate danger and providing David with an opportunity to regroup and prepare for battle.

Overall, 2 Samuel Chapter 17 offers reflections on the wise counsel of Ahithophel and Hushai, the role of loyalty, divine intervention, strategic thinking and timing, and the consequences of decision-making. It serves as a reminder of the importance of seeking wise counsel, the influence of loyalty, and the recognition of God's sovereignty in the unfolding of events.