

**~AHITHOPHEL (166)**  
**(A-hith'o-phel)**

- **A native of Giloh in the hills of Judah**
- **Further, when he offered the sacrifices, Absalom sent for **Ahithophel** the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy kept getting stronger, and the people were continually growing in number with Absalom. (2 Samuel 15:12)**
- **Father of one of David's mighty men named Eliam, and possibly the grandfather of Bath-sheba.**
- **Then David sent and inquired about the woman and someone said; Is this not Bath-sheba the daughter of Eliam the wife of Uriah the Hittite? (2 Samuel 11:3)**
- **Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai the son of the Maacathite, Eliam the son of **Ahithophel** the Gilonite. (2 Samuel 23:34)**
- **As David's personal adviser, **Ahithophel's** sagacious counsel was esteemed as if it were the direct word of Yehowah.**
- **And the counsel of **Ahithophel**, with which he counseled in those days, was just as when a man would inquire of the word of the true God. That was the way all the counsel of **Ahithophel** was both to David and to Absalom. (2 Samuel 16:23)**
- **Later this once-close companion treacherously turned traitor and joined David's son Absalom in a coup against the king. As a ringleader in the rebellion, he advised Absalom to violate David's concubines, and he asked permission to raise an army of 12,000 and immediately hunt down and kill David while David was in a disorganized and weakened state.**
- **And to David the report was made, saying; **Ahithophel** himself is among those conspiring with Absalom. At this David said; Turn, please, the counsel of **Ahithophel** into foolishness, O Yehowah! (2 Samuel 15:31)**
- **As for Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, they entered Jerusalem, and **Ahithophel** was with him. (2 Samuel**

**16:15)**

- Then **Ahithophel** said to Absalom; Have relations with the concubines of your father, whom he left behind to take care of the house. And all Israel will certainly hear that you have made yourself foul-smelling to your father, and the hands of all those who are with you will certainly become strong. (2 Samuel 16:21)
- And **Ahithophel** proceeded to say to Absalom; Let me choose, please, twelve thousand men and rise up and chase after David tonight. (2 Samuel 17:1)
- And I shall come upon him when he is weary and feeble in both hands, and I shall certainly drive him into trembling, and all the people that are with him will have to flee, and I shall certainly strike down the king by himself. (2 Samuel 17:2)
- And let me bring all the people back to you. Equivalent to the returning of all is the man whom you are seeking, and all the people will themselves come to be at peace. (2 Samuel 17:3)
- And the word was just right in the eyes of Absalom and in the eyes of all the older men of Israel. (2 Samuel 17:4)
- When Yehowah thwarted this bold scheme, and the counsel of Hushai was followed, **Ahithophel** evidently realized that Absalom's revolt would fail.
- And it came about that when David himself came to the summit where people used to bow down to God, here to meet him was Hushai the Archite, with his robe ripped apart and dirt upon his head. (2 Samuel 15:32)
- However, David said to him; If you actually went across with me, you would then certainly become a load upon me. (2 Samuel 15:33)
- But if you return to the city and you actually say to Absalom, I am your servant, O King. I used to prove myself the servant of your father, even I at that time, but now even I am your servant, you must then frustrate the counsel of **Ahithophel** for me. (2 Samuel 15:34)
- However, Absalom said; Call, please, Hushai the Archite also,

and let us hear what is in his mouth, even his. (2 Samuel 17:5)

- So Hushai came in to Absalom. Then Absalom said to him, According to this word is the way **Ahithophel** spoke. Shall we act upon his word? If not, you yourself speak. (2 Samuel 17:6)
- At this Hushai said to Absalom; The counsel with which **Ahithophel** has counseled is not good in this instance! (2 Samuel 17:7)
- And Hushai went on to say; You yourself well know your father and the men of his, that they are mighty, and they are bitter of soul, like a female bear that has lost her cubs in the field, and your father is a warrior, and he will not spend the night with the people. (2 Samuel 17:8)
- Look! Now he is in hiding in one of the hollows or in one of the other places, and it will certainly occur that, just as soon as he falls upon them at the start, the one hearing of it will then be bound to hear and say; A defeat has taken place among the people that are following Absalom! (2 Samuel 17:9)
- And even the valiant man whose heart is as the heart of the lion will himself surely soften in weakness, for all Israel is aware that your father is a mighty man and so, too, are the valiant men that are with him. (2 Samuel 17:10)
- I myself do say in counsel; Let all Israel without fail be gathered to you, from Dan to Beer-sheba, as the sand particles that are by the sea for multitude, with your own person going into the fight. (2 Samuel 17:11)
- And we must come against him in one of the places where he is certain to be found, and we ourselves will be upon him just as the dew falls upon the ground, and there will certainly not be left even a single one among him and all the men that are with him. (2 Samuel 17:12)
- And if it is into some city that he will withdraw, all Israel must also carry ropes to that city, and we shall certainly drag it down to the torrent valley, until there shall not be found there even a pebble. (2 Samuel 17:13)
- Then Absalom and all the men of Israel said; The counsel of

Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of **Ahithophel**! And Yehowah himself had given command to frustrate the counsel of **Ahithophel** although good, in order, that Yehowah might bring calamity upon Absalom. (2 Samuel 17:14)

- He committed suicide and was buried with his forefathers.
- As for **Ahithophel**, he saw that his counsel had not been acted upon, and he proceeded to saddle an ass and rise up and go off to his house at his own city. Then he gave commands to his household and strangled himself and thus died. So he was buried in the burial place of his forefathers. (2 Samuel 17:23)
- Apart from wartime, this is the only case of suicide mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures. His traitorous act is apparently recalled in;
- For it was not an enemy that proceeded to reproach me, otherwise I could put up with it. It was not an intense hater of me that assumed great airs against me, otherwise I could conceal myself from him. (Psalms 55:12)
- But it was you, a mortal man who was as my equal, one familiar to me and my acquaintance. (Psalms 55:13)
- Because we used to enjoy sweet intimacy together, into the house of God we used to walk with the throng. (Psalms 55:14)