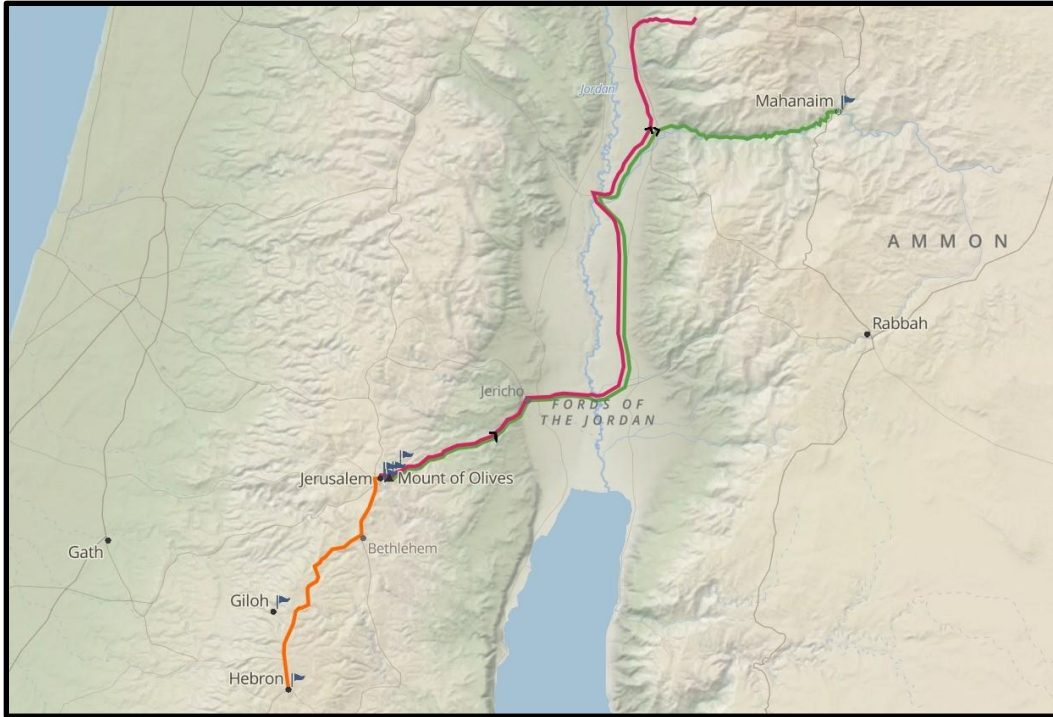


Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

Absalom Chooses Poorly

- Ahithophel told Absalom about a plan to defeat David and his men [2 Sam 17:1-4].
 - Ahithophel recognized that David and his men were weary [v. 2a cp. 2 Sam 16:14].
 - Ahithophel intended to kill David which was key to Absalom holding onto power [vv. 2b-3].
 - Ahithophel's plan was accepted by all [v. 4].
- Hushai was consulted by Absalom and offered an alternate plan [2 Sam 17:5-13].
 - Absalom began by telling Hushai all about Ahithophel's plan [v. 6].
 - Hushai began by casting doubt upon Ahithophel's plan [v. 7].
 - Hushai then stirred up Absalom's greatest fear – David's military expertise [vv. 8-10].
 - Finally, Hushai appealed to Absalom's human viewpoint thinking by suggesting a guaranteed victory through numbers [vv. 11-13].
 - Ahithophel's plan put himself in the battle [v. 1].
 - Hushai's plan put Absalom in the battle [v. 11].
- The Lord caused Absalom to receive the counsel of the two men in such a way that he would choose Hushai's plan [2 Sam 17:14].
 - God's sovereign plan was for Absalom's coup to fail and Absalom's poor decision was part of how God's plan would be carried out.
 - Absalom was not forced to make the choice he did – he did so of his own volition.
- Hushai immediately put David's intelligence network into action [2 Sam 17:15-16].
- Jonathan and Ahimaaz were spotted as they departed, but they were able to escape the detection of Absalom's servants by hiding in a dry well in Bahurim [2 Sam 17:17-20].
- They went to David and told him about the counsel Absalom had received [2 Sam 17:21].
- David immediately took action and crossed over the Jordan with his men [2 Sam 17:22].
- Ahithophel was dejected because his counsel had been rejected, so he went to his home and took his own life [2 Sam 17:23].
- David continued to Mahanaim as Absalom led the Israelites across the Jordan [2 Sam 17:24].



- David continued to Mahanaim as Absalom led the Israelites across the Jordan [2 Sam 17:24].
 - David may have chosen Mahanaim because it was a fortified city.
 - There also could have been good will toward David in Mahanaim because it had been the capital under Ish-bosheth [2 Sam 2:8] and David had been good to Saul's family [2 Sam 9:10-13].
- For some reason Absalom decided to change commanders by putting Amasa, Joab's cousin, in his place over the Israelite army which set up camp at Gilead [2 Sam 17:25-26].
- While at Mahanaim David received much needed logistical support from Shobi, Machir and Barzillai [2 Sam 17:27-29].
- Shobi was the son of Nahash and likely the younger brother to Hanun [2 Sam 10:1-2].
- Machir was the son of Ammiel who had been a blessing to Mephibosheth [2 Sam 9:4-5] and was now a blessing to David.
- Barzillai the Gileadite was an older man whose son would serve David [2 Sam 19:31-40].