

• FEBRUARY 24, 2019 •

*Family Collapse, part 3:
The Kingdom Restored*
2 Samuel 17-18

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1. God controls the counsels of people (2 Samuel 17:1-17)
2. The intrigue of people continues despite God's control (2 Samuel 17:18-29)
3. Battle preparations and the battle itself as human events under God's control (2 Samuel 18:1-18)

4. Absalom's death and David's grief reveal God's control (2 Samuel 18:19-33)

Table Talk

- 1) What are the differences between Ahithophel's and Hushai's advice to Absalom? How does this illustrate almost every military commander's quandary? (see 2 Sam 17:1-14)
- 2) What is important about 2 Samuel 17:14? How do you see God's control of human counsel throughout this story? How do you see God's control of human counsel in your life?
- 3) Does the fact that God is in control keep people from action? Why does God appear to use lying spies (17:17-20) and foreign enemies (17:27-29) to accomplish His purposes? Why in fact does God use sinners at all for His purposes? (2 Sam 17:18-29) Why does Ahithophel commit suicide once he knows that his advice has not been followed? (17:23)
- 4) How does David organize his military forces? Do you think God is involved with matters like that? What two concerns does David have? Do his military generals agree with David on either of these? (18:1-5)
- 5) How does Absalom die? Did Joab do something good or something bad in killing Absalom? How do we see God's control here? What things in your life are you finding it difficult to see where God's control is? (18:6-18)
- 6) Why do you think the story of the two runners is in the Bible? How do each of the runners invoke the name of God? Describe David's emotions. Describe a time of similar loss for you. How does knowing God's control help us in these powerless moments? (2 Sam 18:19-33)