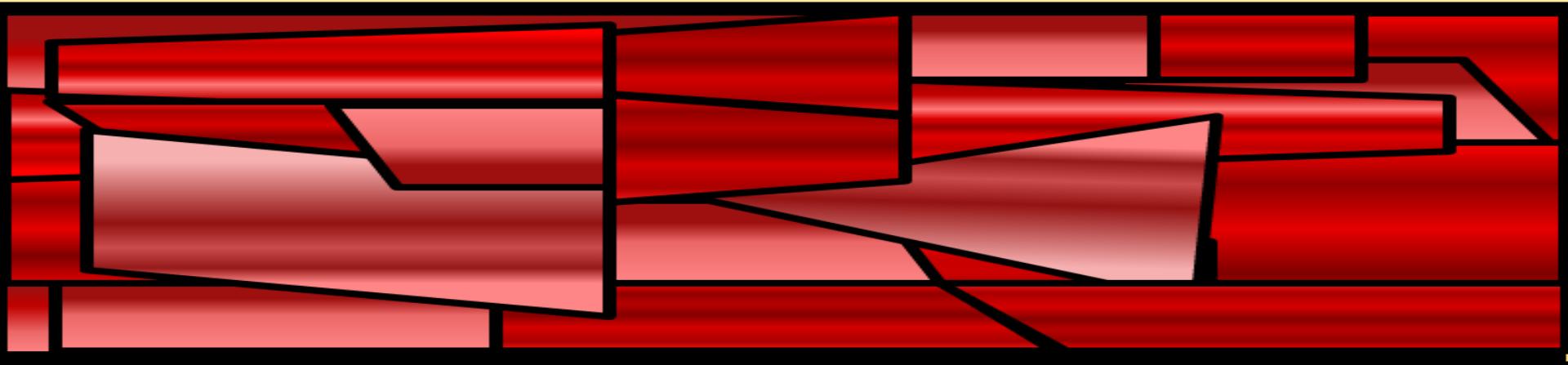
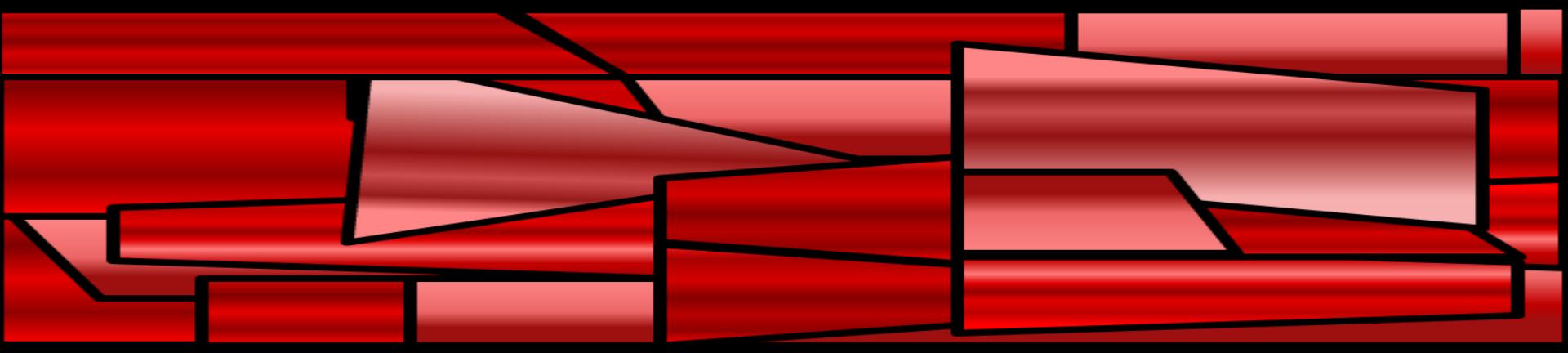


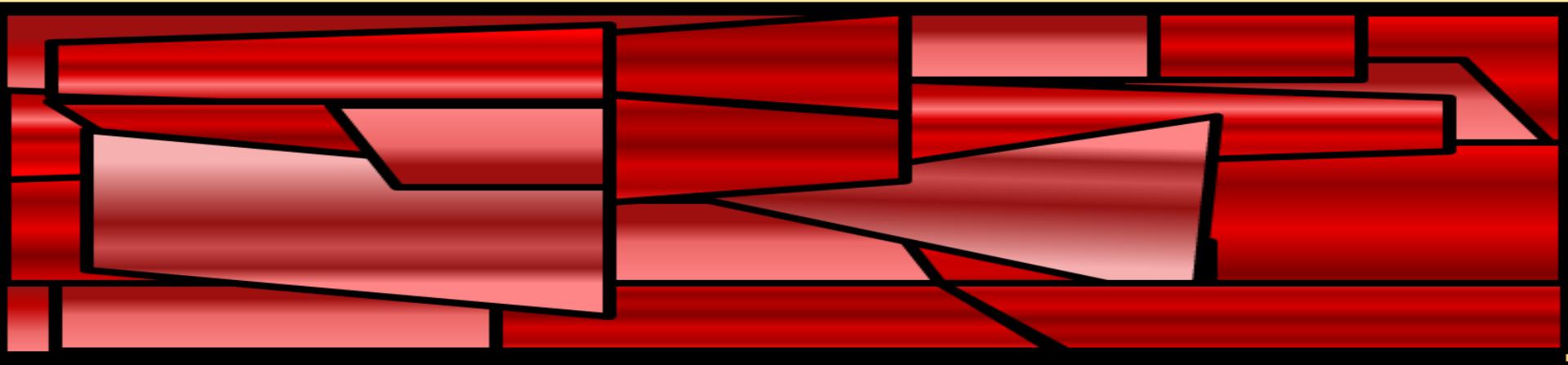
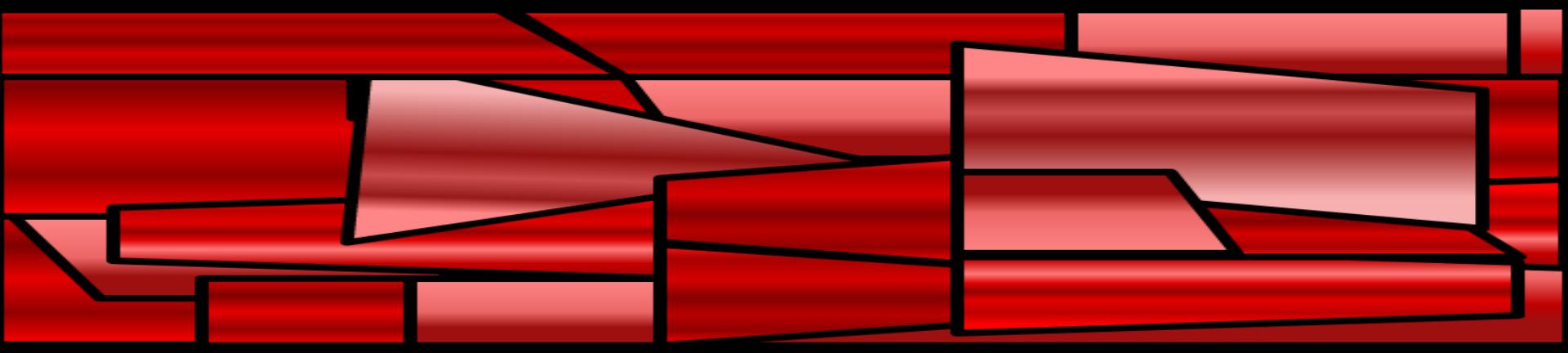
SAUL, DAVID, & SOLOMON

Lessons In Faith





III SAMUEL



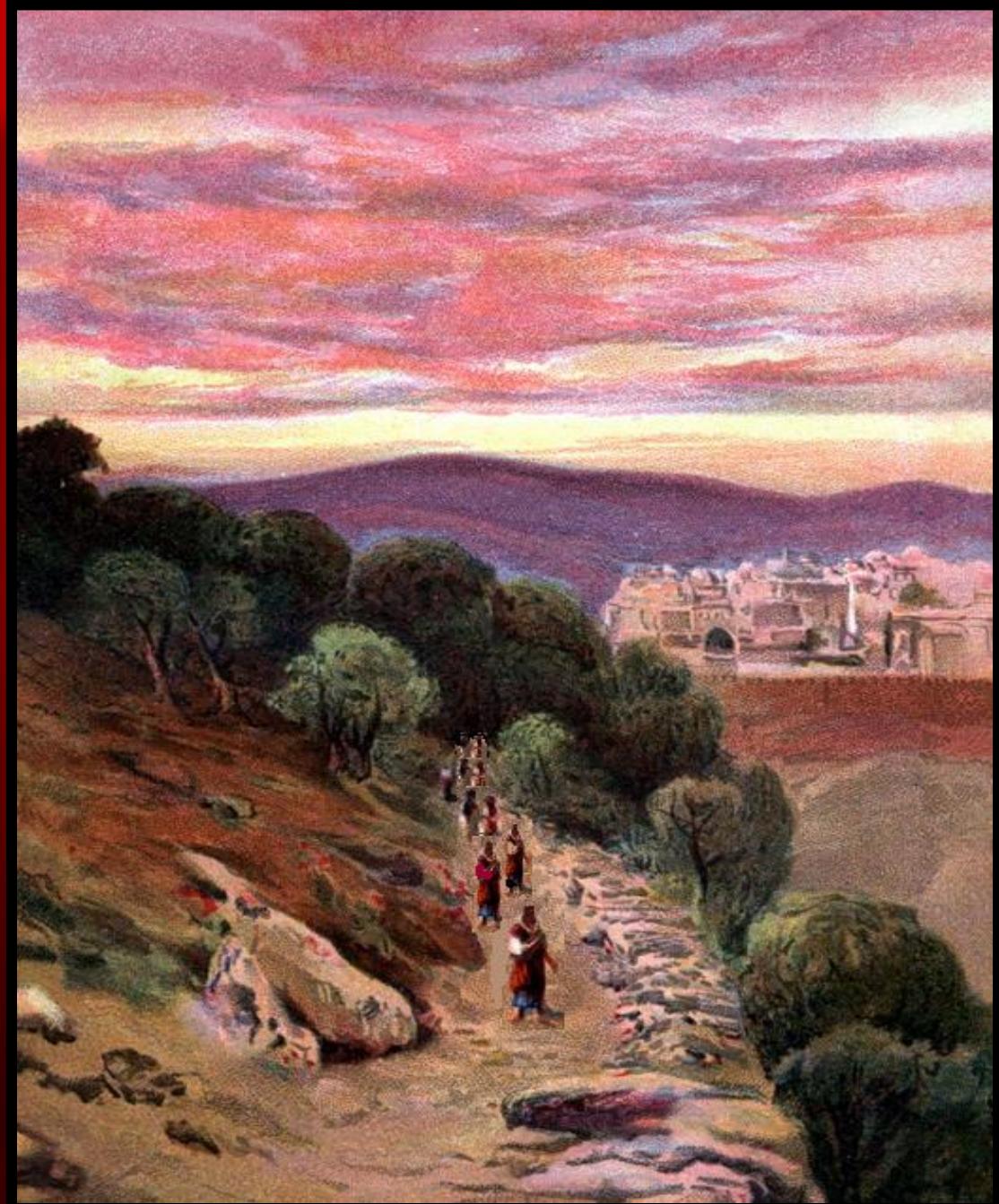
DAVID'S FLIGHT



Word came to King David
that his son Absalom was
coming to take Jerusalem.
Fearful that blood would be
shed David fled the city.

2 Samuel 15

“³⁰And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.”



Three men came to
David as he escaped
Absalom:

Hushi - Ziba - Shimei

Each made a different
impact . . .

David was worshipping on the Mount of Olives and as he prayed Hushai came to console him. Hushai had rent his coat and put earth upon his head in grief.

David had confidence in Hushai's faithfulness and asked Hushai to spy upon Absalom.

David sent Hushai back to Jerusalem, to wait for Absalom's arrival and pretend to be loyal to Absalom.



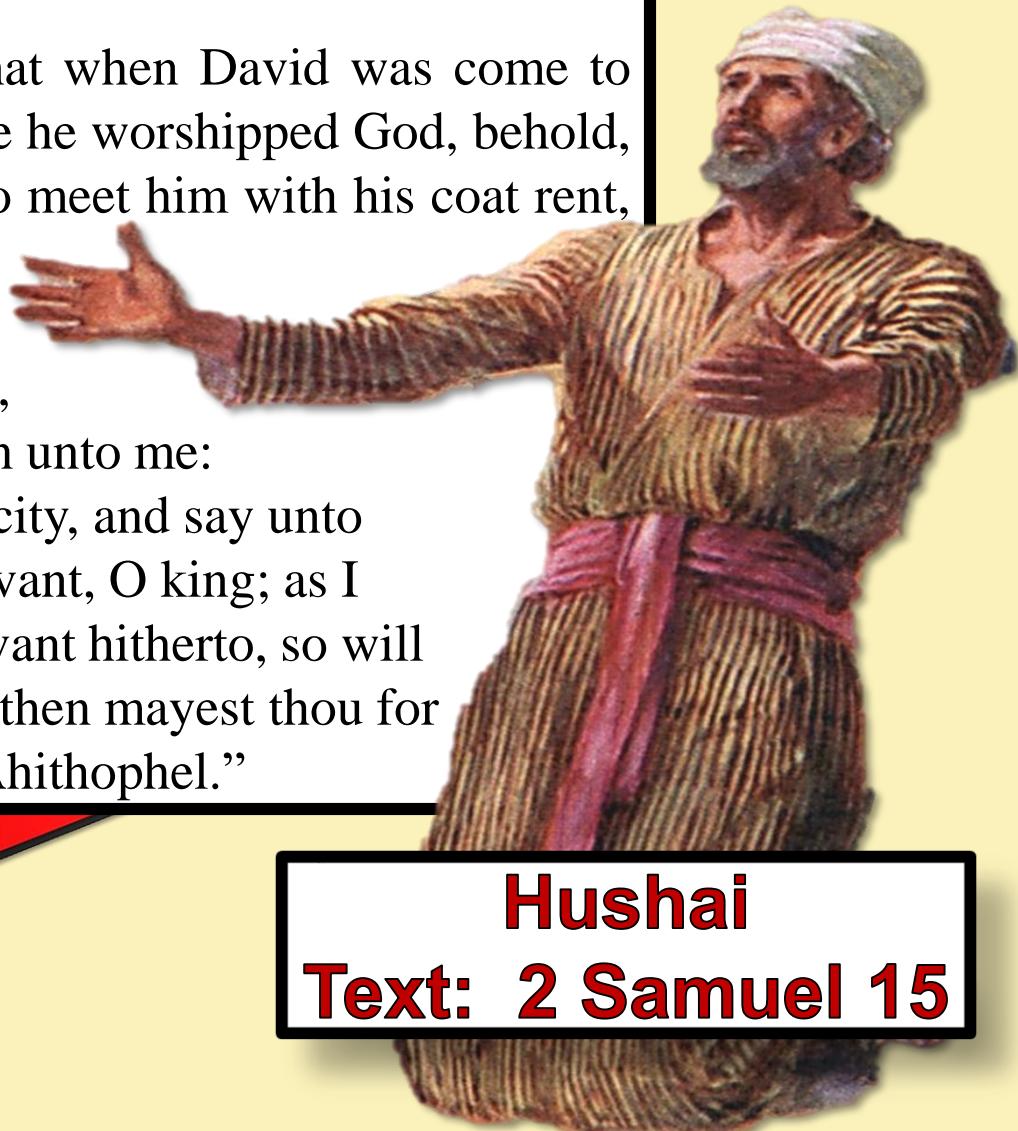
The first man was Hushai.
Answer to David's prayer.

2 Samuel 15

“³²And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the mount, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head:

³³Unto whom David said,
If thou passest on with me,
then thou shalt be a burden unto me:

³⁴But if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy servant, O king; as I have been thy father’s servant hitherto, so will I now also be thy servant: then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel.”



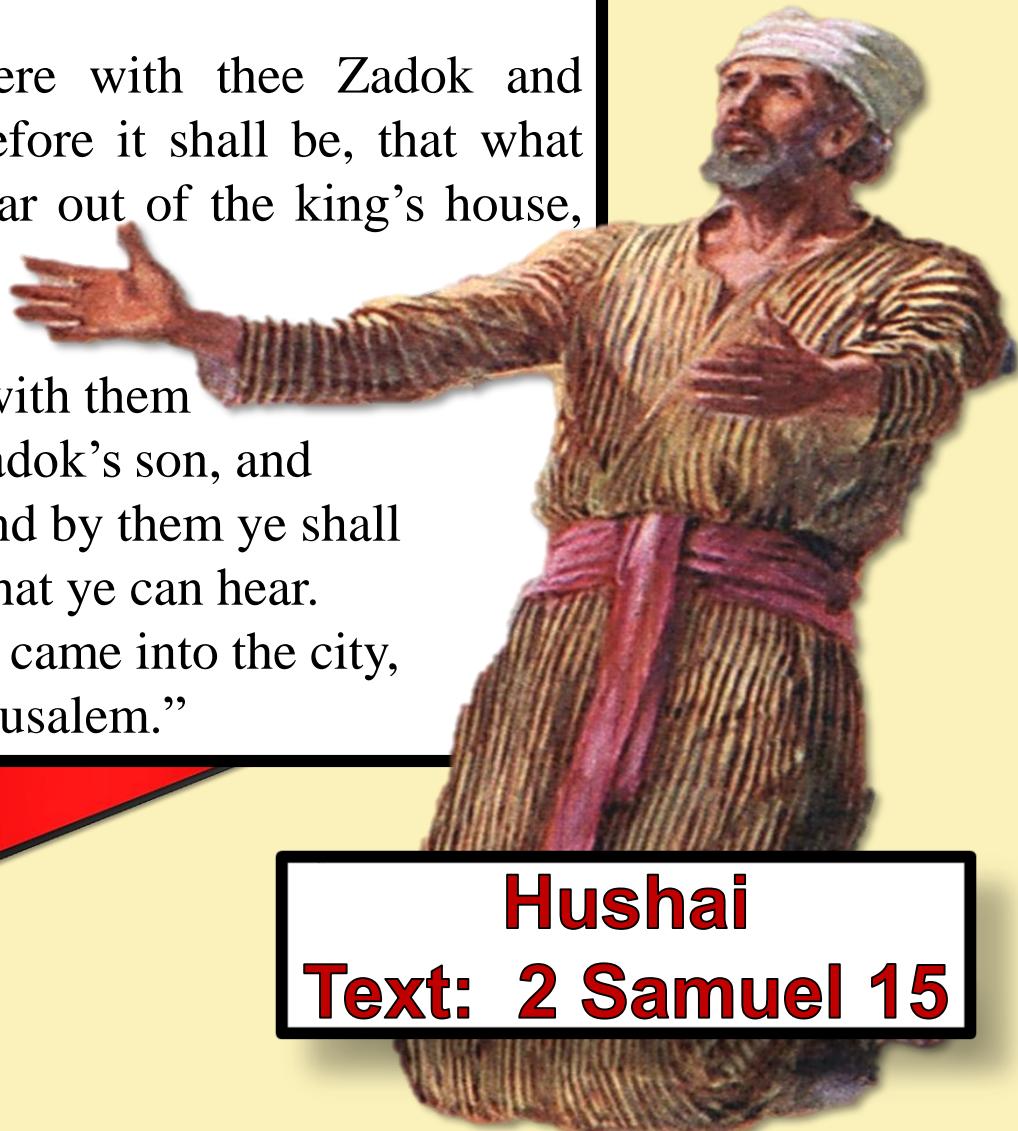
Hushai
Text: 2 Samuel 15

2 Samuel 15

“³⁵And hast thou not there with thee Zadok and Abiathar the priests? therefore it shall be, that what thing soever thou shalt hear out of the king’s house, thou shalt tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

³⁶Behold, they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz Zadok’s son, and Jonathan Abiathar’s son; and by them ye shall send unto me every thing that ye can hear.

³⁷So Hushai David’s friend came into the city, and Absalom came into Jerusalem.”



Hushai
Text: 2 Samuel 15

Three men came to
David as he escaped
Absalom:

Hushi - Ziba - Shimei

Each made a different
impact . . .

David was kind to Mephibosheth after the death of his father, Jonathan. He was generous to him and entrusted his servant Ziba with the management of Mephibosheth's estate.

The second man was Ziba.

Ziba lied to David.



The second man was Ziba.

Ziba lied to David.

While the kingdom was in the current confusion, Ziba schemed to be promoted. He brought supplies to David on Mount Olivet and then lied to David and convinced him that Mephibosheth was a traitor.



David believed Ziba's lies and convicted Mephibosheth of treason, seized his lands as forfeited, and granted them to Ziba.

Later David realized Mephibosheth was innocent.

The second man was Ziba.

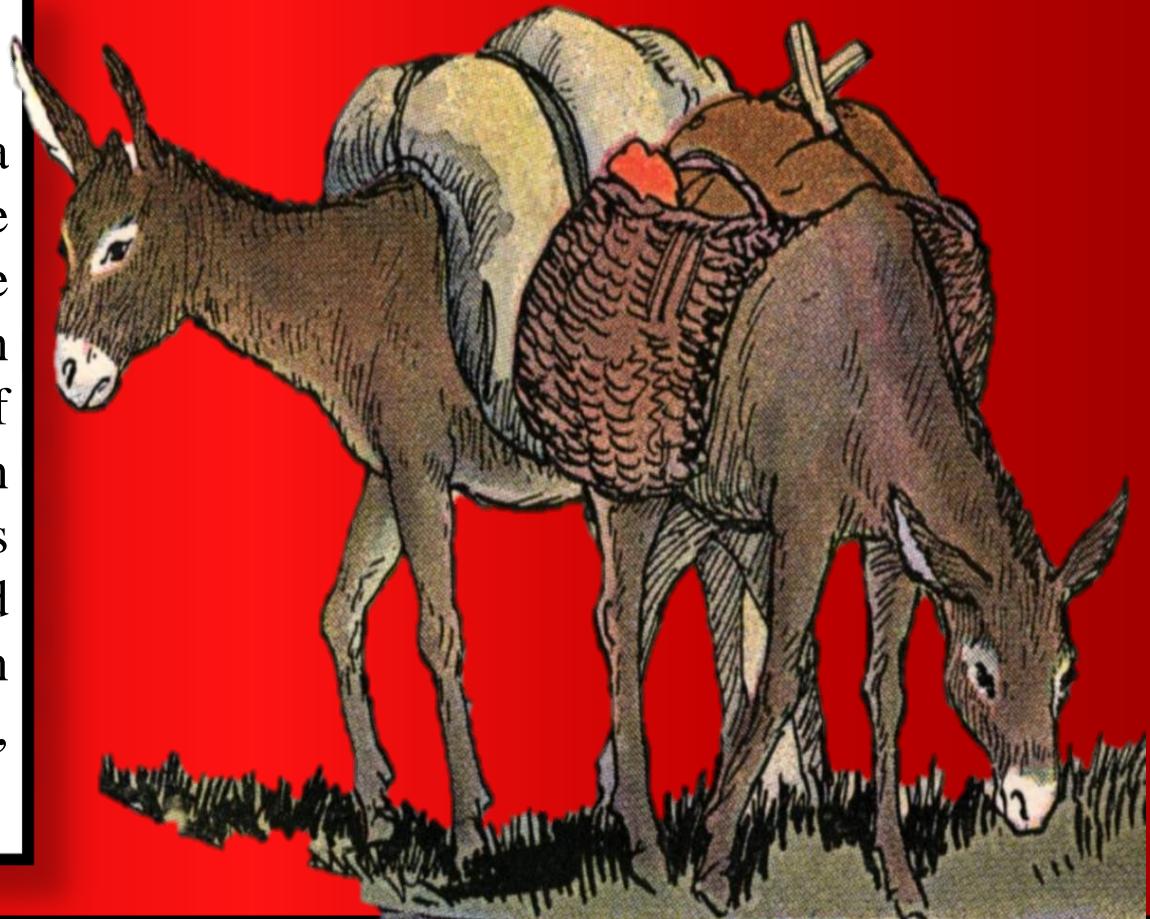
Ziba lied to David.



Text Regarding Ziba

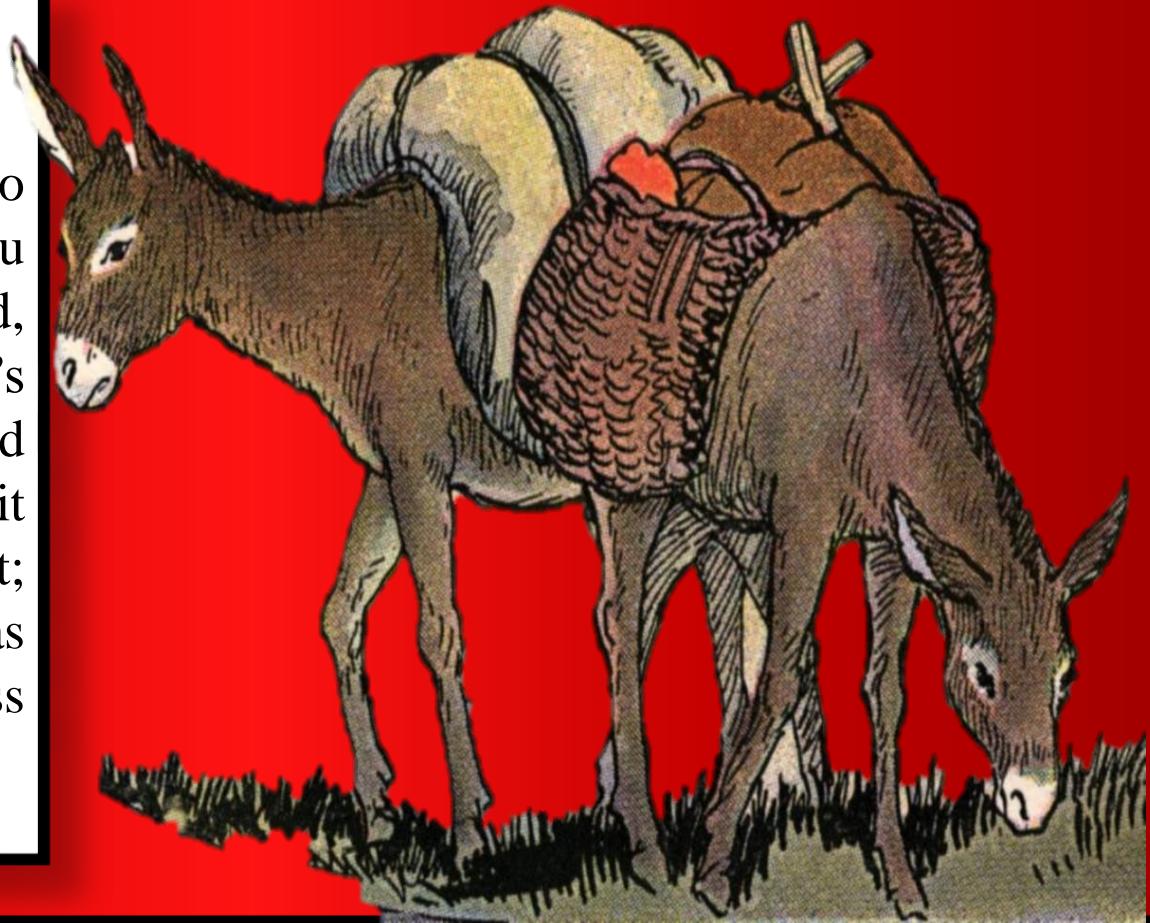
2 Samuel 16

“¹And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.”



2 Samuel 16

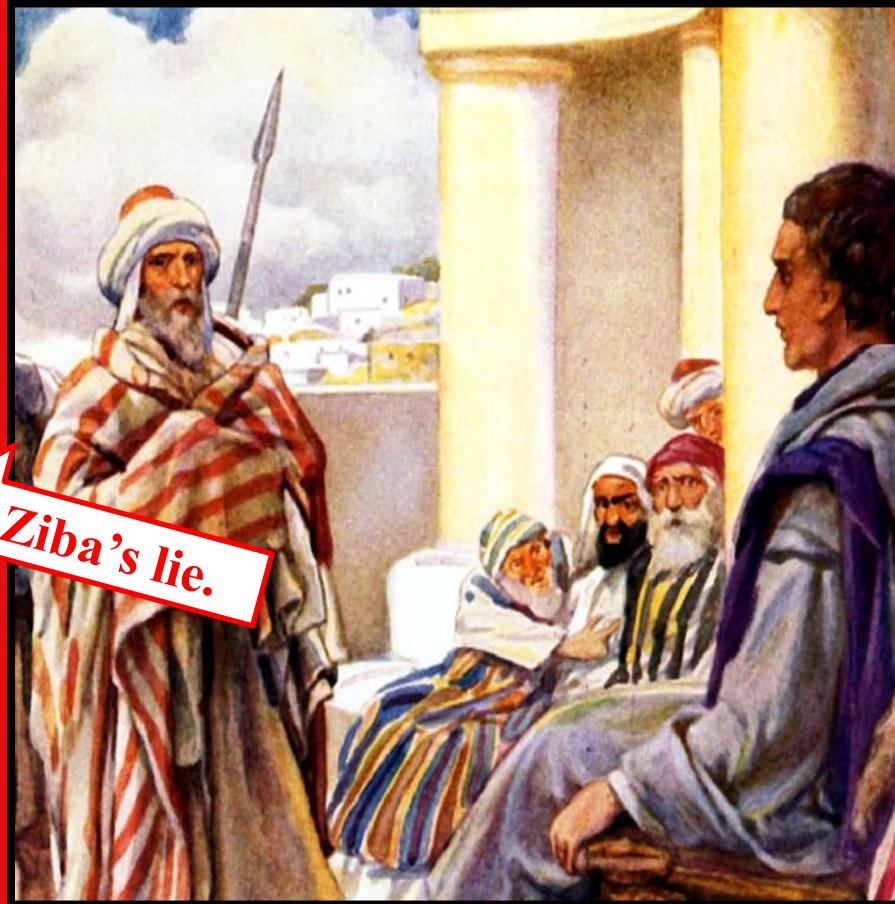
“²And the king said unto Ziba, What meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, The asses be for the king’s household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.”



2 Samuel 16

“³And the king said, And where is thy master’s son? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem: for he said, **To day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.**

⁴Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.”



David realized his error
when he returned to
Jerusalem.

See: 2 Samuel 19:24-30.



Three men came to
David as he escaped
Absalom:

Hushi - Ziba - **Shimei**

Each made a different
impact . . .

The third man was Shimei.

Shimei cursed David.

David, in his flight, had come to Bahurim, a city of Benjamin near the home of a man named Shimei.

Shimei was faithful to King Saul and hated David for being king rather than *the house of Saul*.



Now that the kingdom was in turmoil, Shimei felt free to tell everyone what he thought of David. Shimei cursed David and threw stones and dust. Abishai wanted to stop Shimei . . . “take off his head.” But, David bore it patiently and even concluded that God told Shimei to afflict him.

The third man was Shimei.

Shimei cursed David.



Text Regarding Shimei

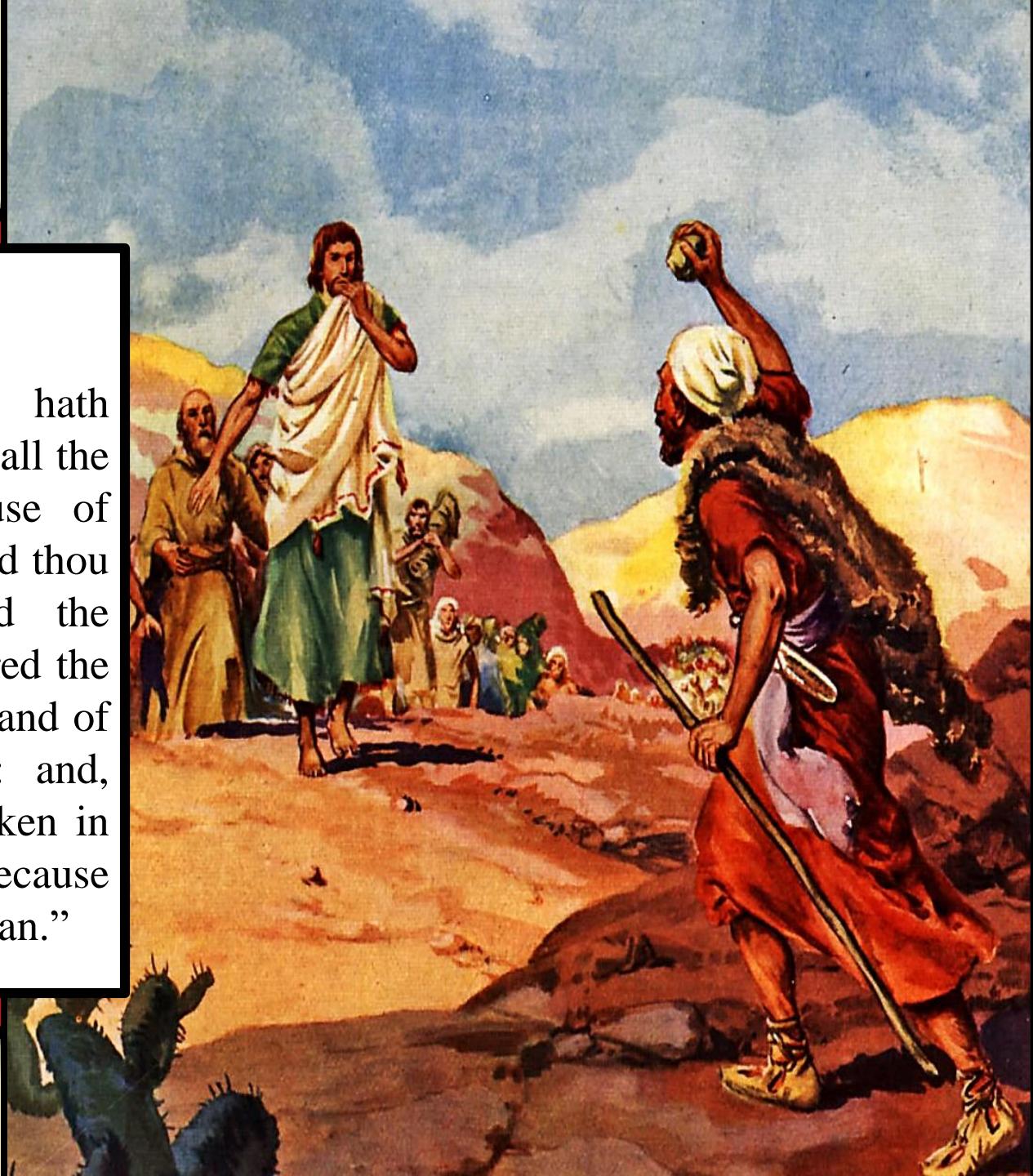
2 Samuel 16

“⁵And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came. ⁶And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. ⁷And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial:”



2 Samuel 16

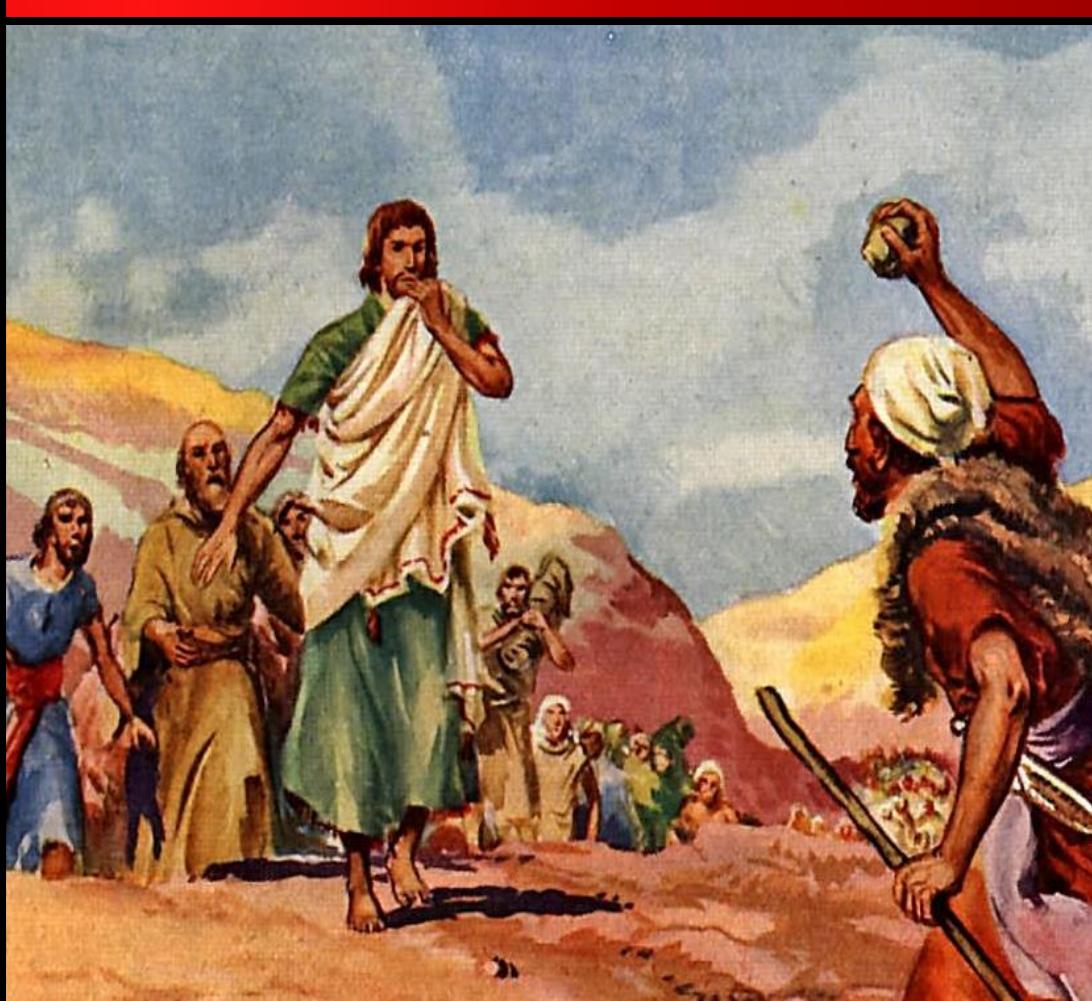
“⁸The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.”



2 Samuel 16

“⁹Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

¹⁰And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? so let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so?”



2 Samuel 16

“¹¹And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. ¹²It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day. ¹³And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill’s side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.”



REVIEW

THE IMPACT OF THE THREE MEN WHO CAME TO DAVID AS HE ESCAPED ABSALOM

The first man was Hushai.
He **BLESSED** David by spying on Absalom.

The second man was Ziba.
He **BETRAYED** David by lying about Mephibosheth.

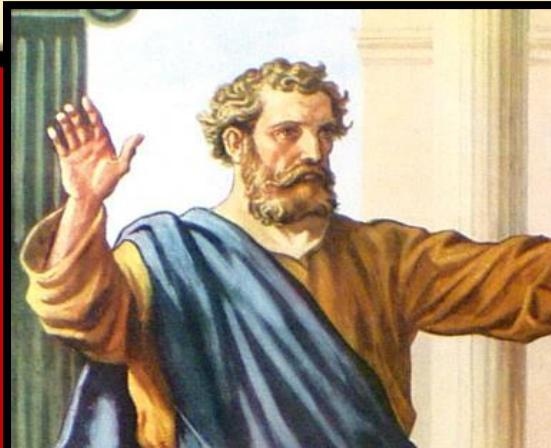
The third man was Shimei.
He **BERATED** David by cursing him.

Absalom was told that David had withdrawn, and he could take possession of Jerusalem when he pleased. The gates were open, there was no one to oppose him, and the city was his.

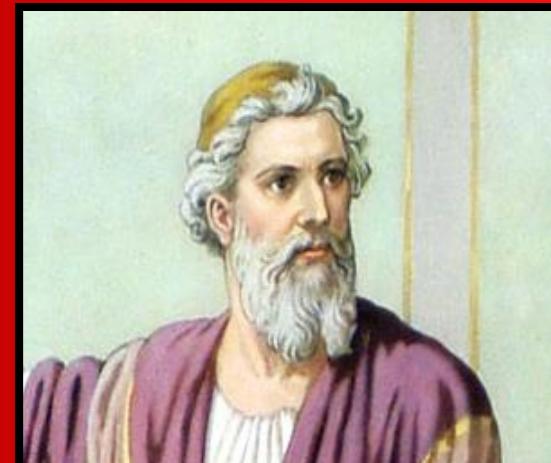
He concluded all belonged to him, and he was now King of Israel.

Absalom took possession of JERUSALEM.





Hushai



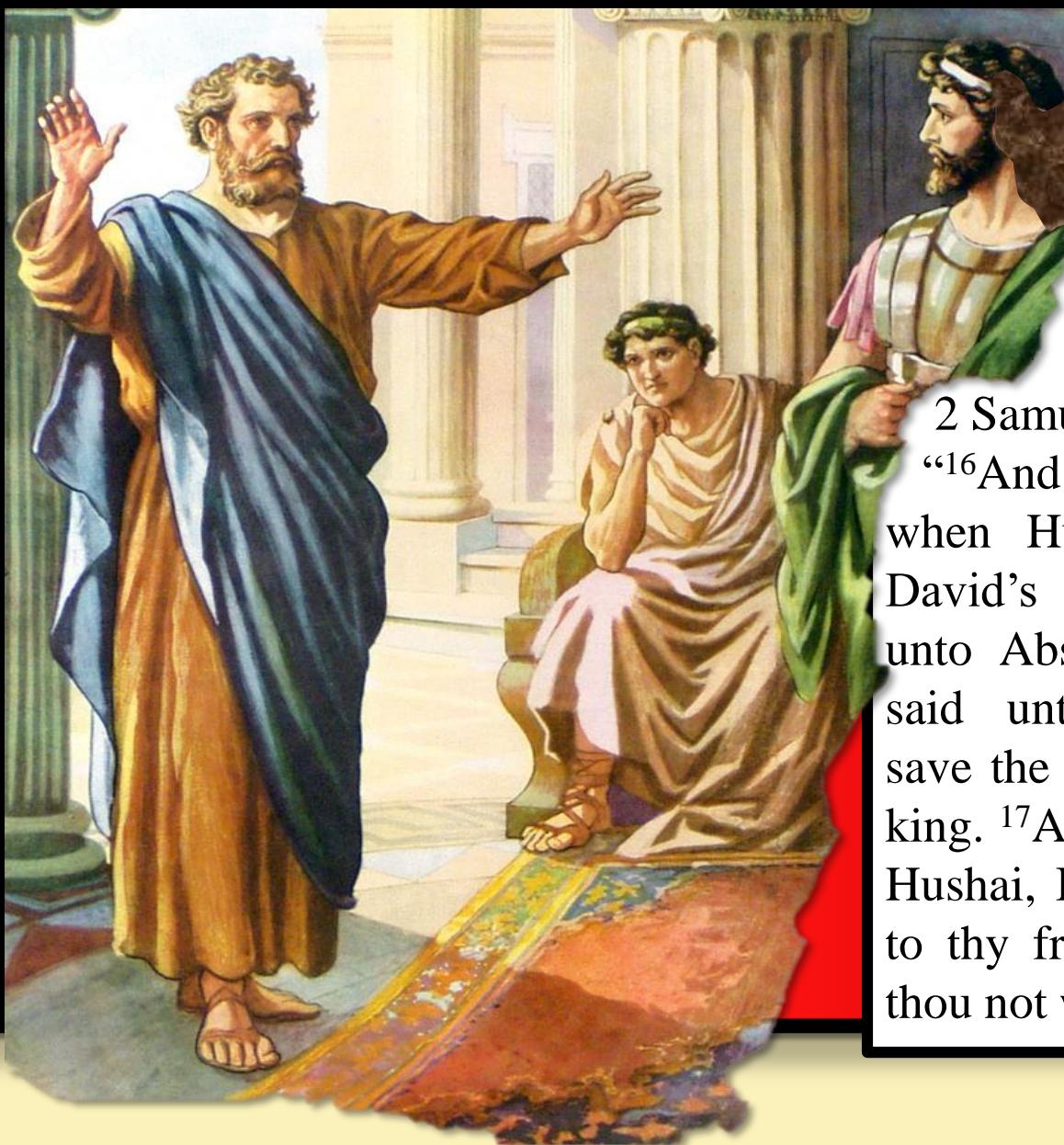
Ahithophel

BUT, Absalom was no politician. He relied upon his two counselors Ahithophel and Hushai but miserable counsellors were they both —

Hushai would never counsel him to do wisely. Remember, he was a spy and secretly loyal to David.

AND

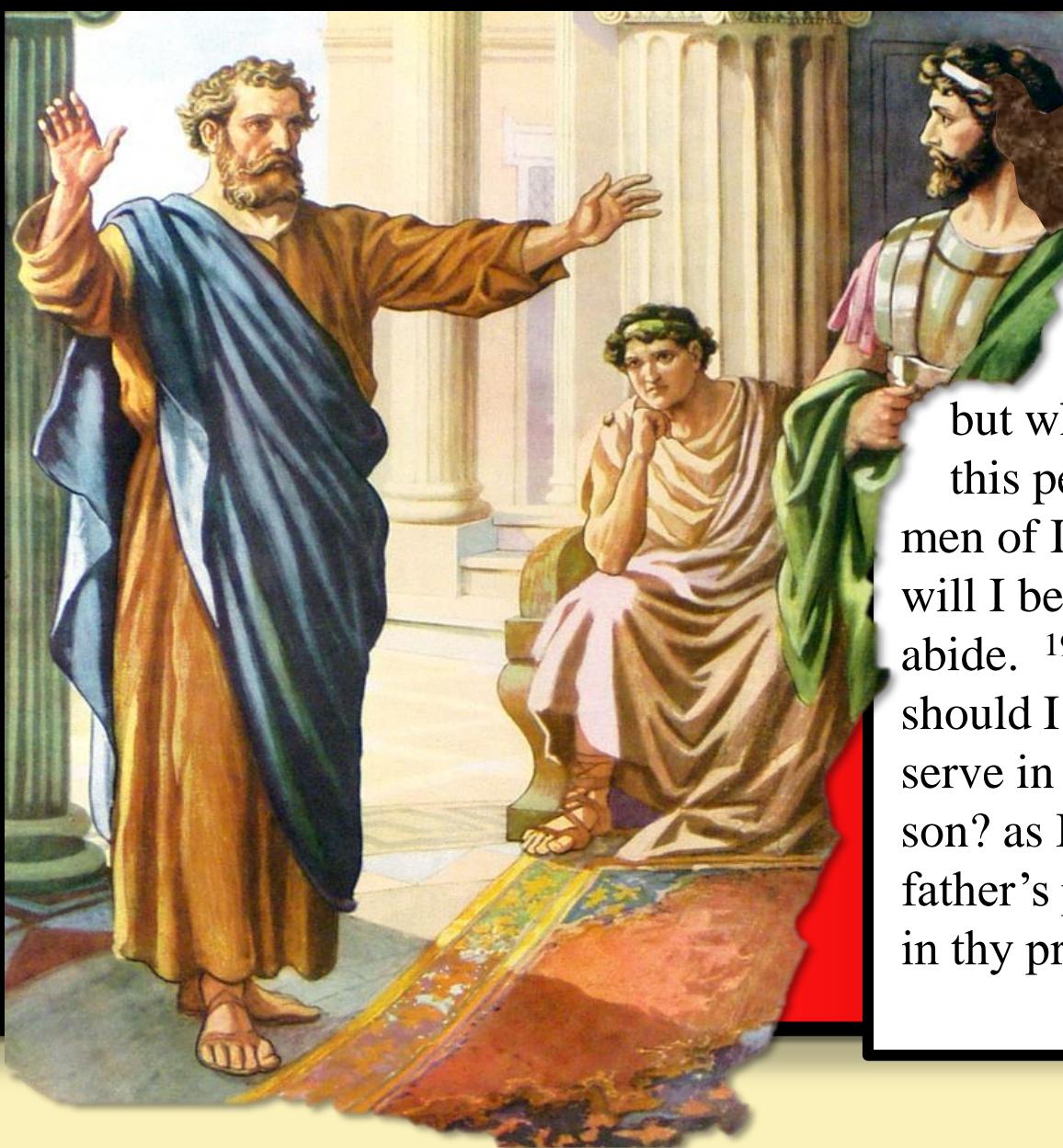
Ahithophel counselled him to do wickedly thus effectually betraying him because those that advise men to sin certainly advise them to their hurt.



Hushai had to convince Absalom that he was loyal to him because he had not sided with him from the first . . .

2 Samuel 16

“¹⁶And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David’s friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, God save the king, God save the king. ¹⁷And Absalom said to Hushai, Is this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not with thy friend?”



2 Samuel 16

“¹⁸And Hushai said unto Absalom, Nay; but whom the LORD, and this people, and all the men of Israel, choose, his will I be, and with him will I abide. ¹⁹And again, whom should I serve? should I not serve in the presence of his son? as I have served in thy father’s presence, so will I be in thy presence.”

Ahitophel's Wicked Counsel—

Finding that David left his concubines in Jerusalem, Ahithophel advised Absalom to lie with them. This sinful action was to show David that Absalom was taking everything that belonged to David, and he had resolved never to make peace with his father upon any terms.

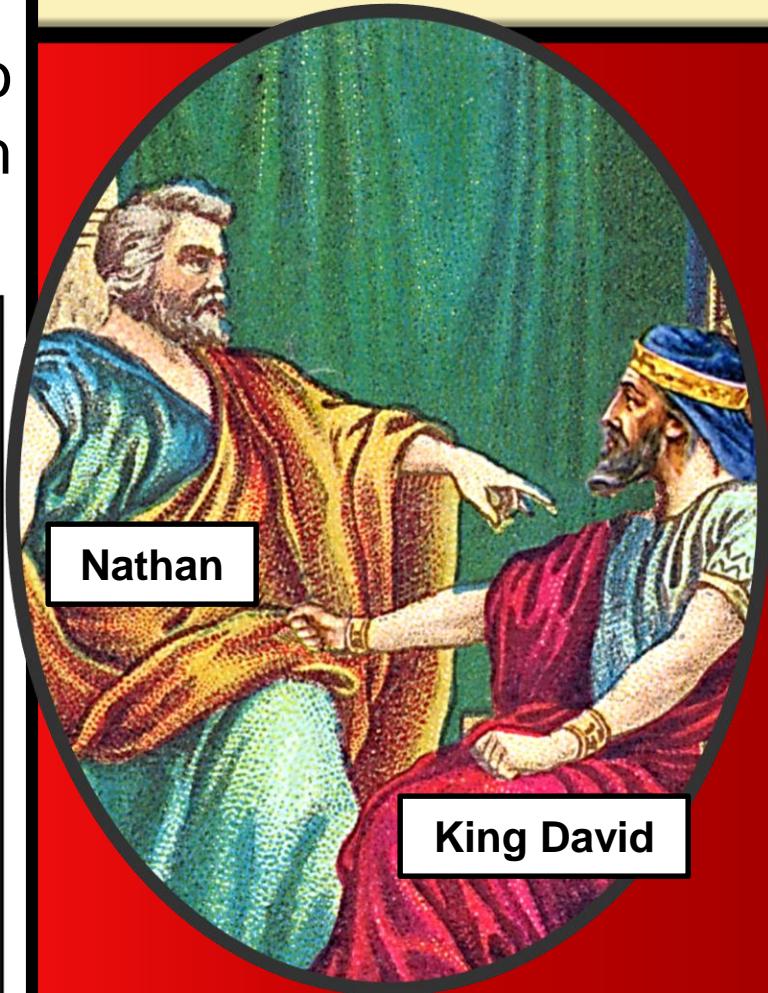
In this the word of God was fulfilled, for Nathan the prophet had told David it would be a consequence of his sin with Bathsheba.



Nathan the prophet's words to David because of his sin with Bathsheba:

2 Samuel 12

“¹¹Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and **he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.**”



2 Samuel 16

21And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.



2 Samuel 16

22 So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

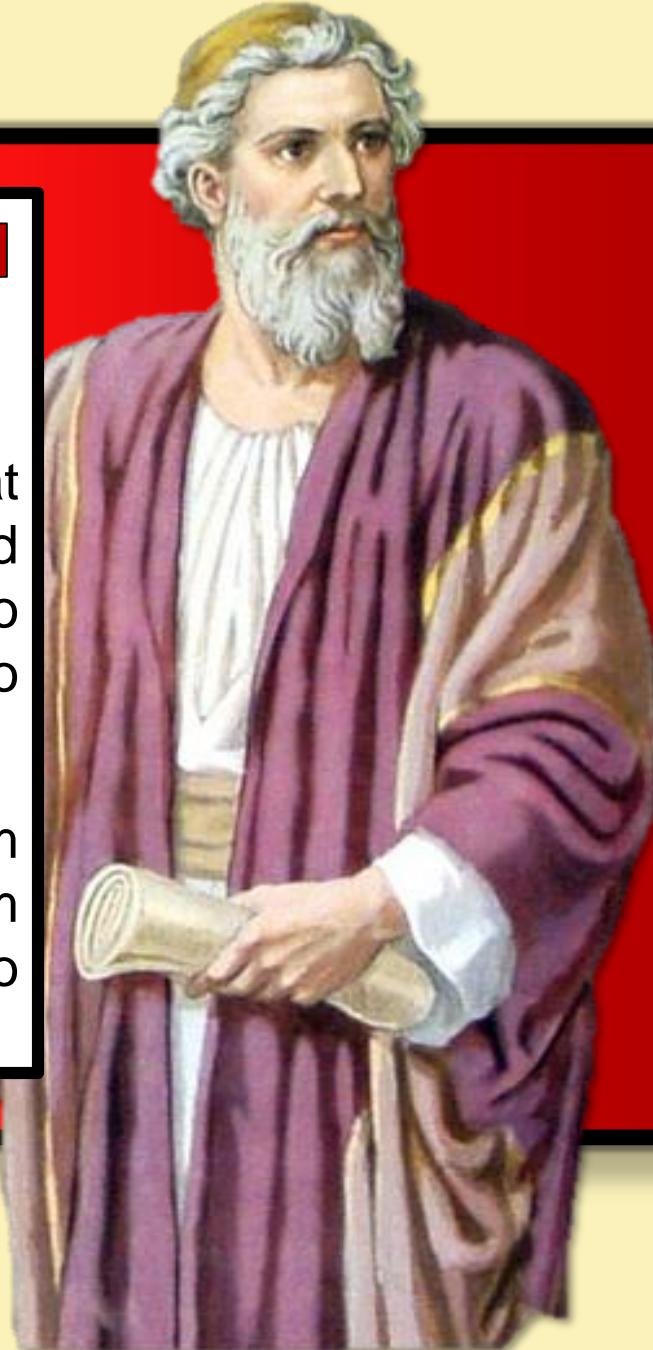
23 And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.



Ahitophel's Counsel For War—

Ahitophel advised Absalom that he should pursue David immediately and the goal be to kill David, scatter those loyal to him, and avoid a long war.

He recommended that Absalom should stay in Jerusalem protected. Ahithophel wanted to lead the force against David.

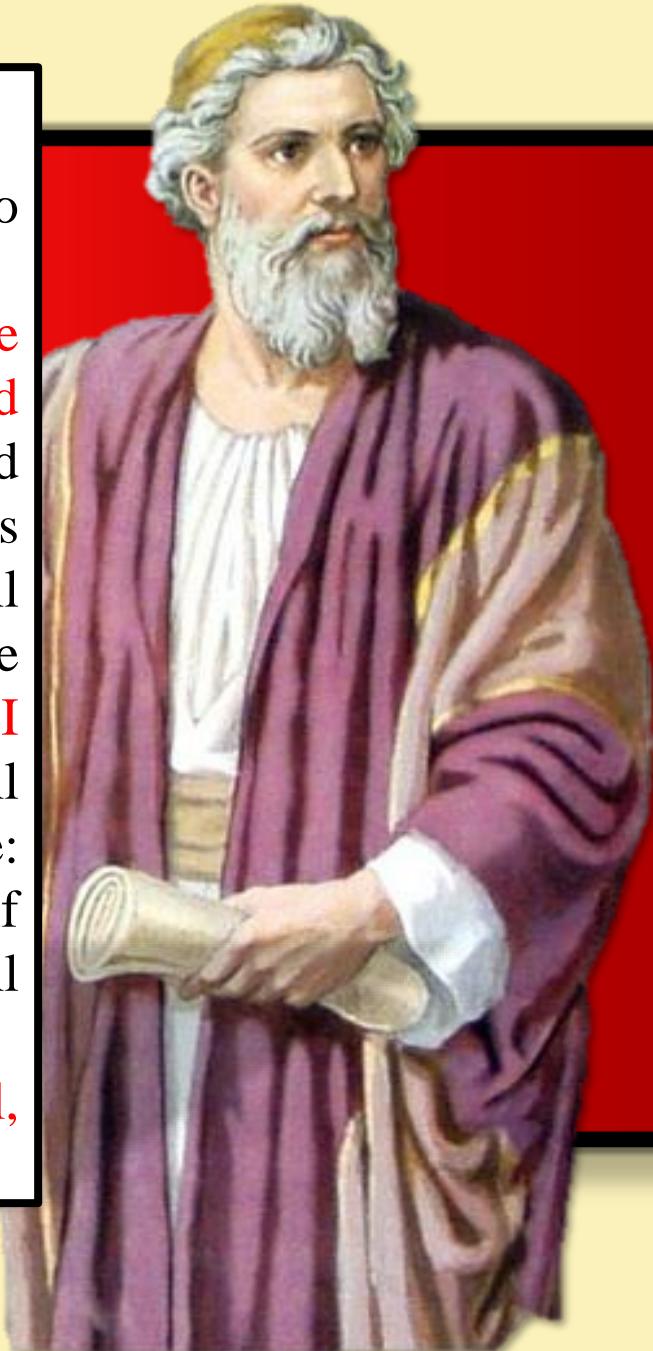


2 Samuel 17

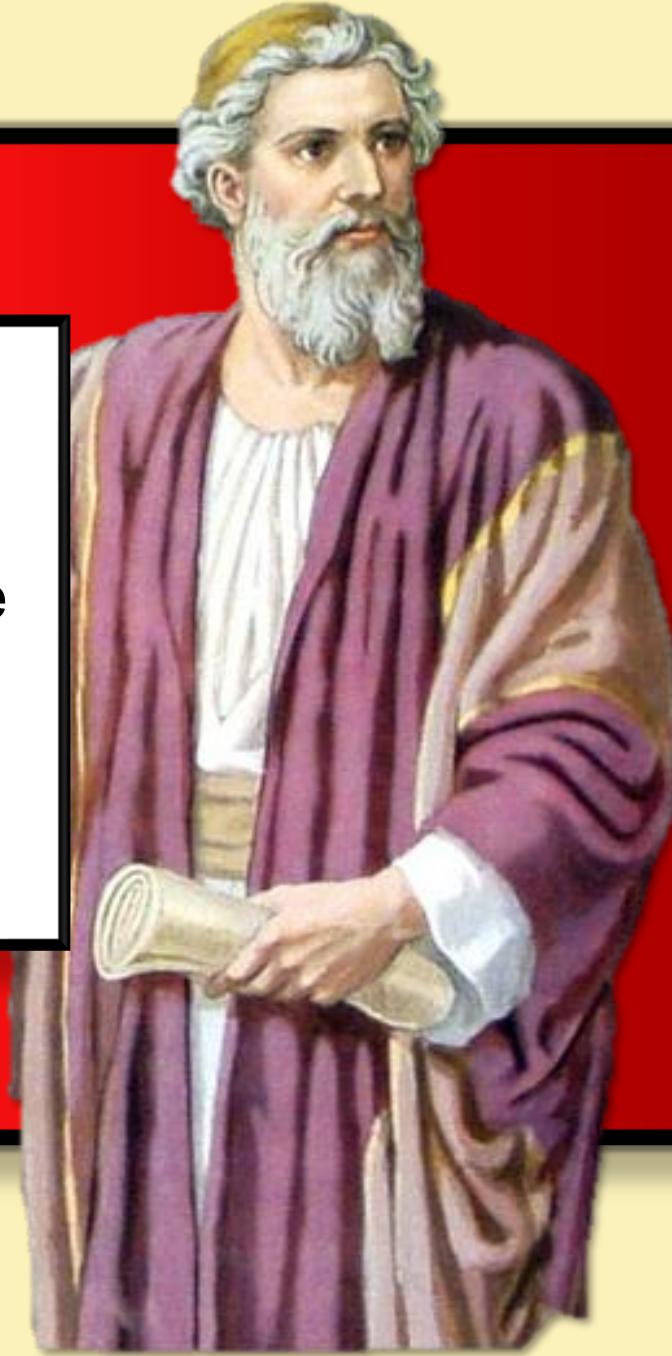
“¹Moreover Ahithophel said unto Absalom,

Let me now choose out twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue after David this night: ²And I will come upon him while he is weary and weak handed, and will make him afraid: and all the people that are with him shall flee; and **I will smite the king only:** ³And I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seekest is as if all returned: so all the people shall be in peace.

⁴And the saying pleased Absalom well, and all the elders of Israel.”



Absalom was pleased with Ahithophel's counsel, but he decided to also hear what Hushai had to say . . .



Hushai's Clever Counsel—

He argued against

Ahitophel's counsel and showed
the danger of his advice; that it was hasty
and not good at this time.

He insisted upon

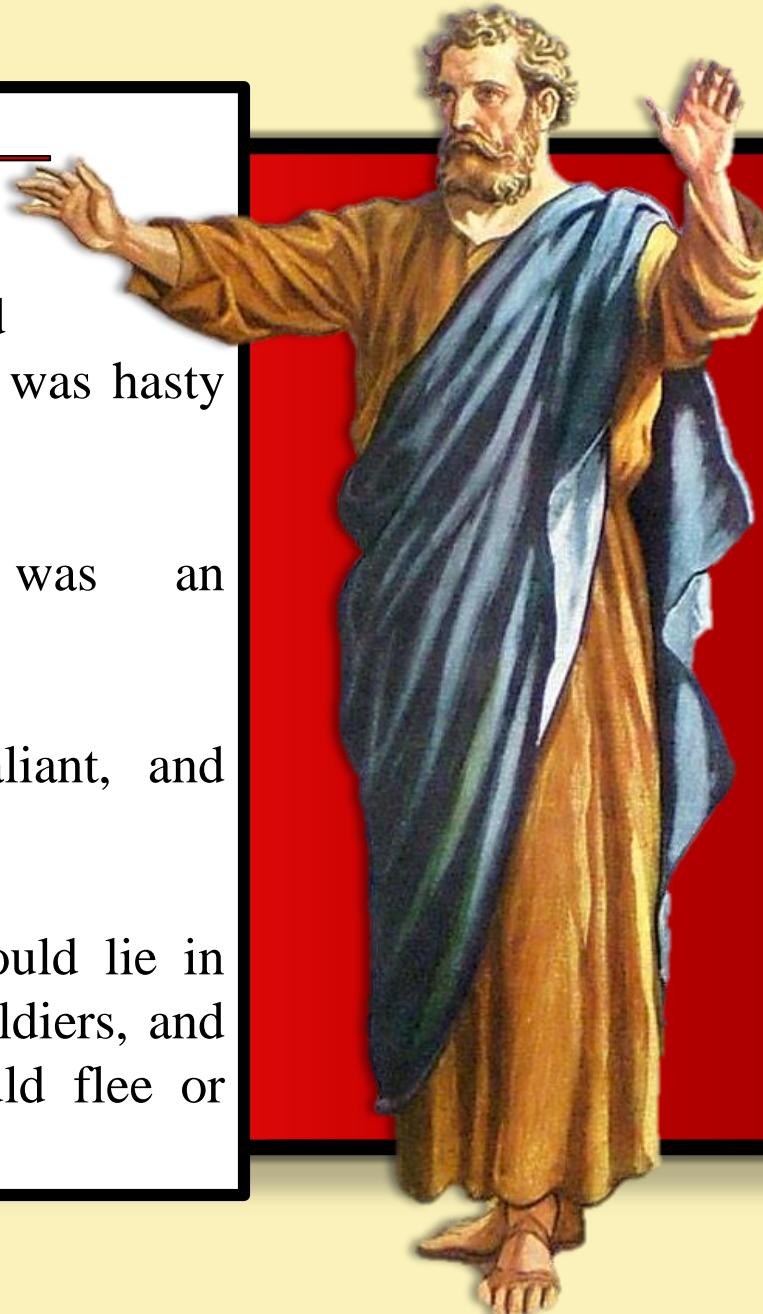
consideration that David was an
experienced man of war.

He warned that

David's men were mighty, valiant, and
enraged at Absalom.

He suggested that

David and some of his men could lie in
ambush, fall upon Absalom's soldiers, and
slaughter them before they could flee or
defend themselves.

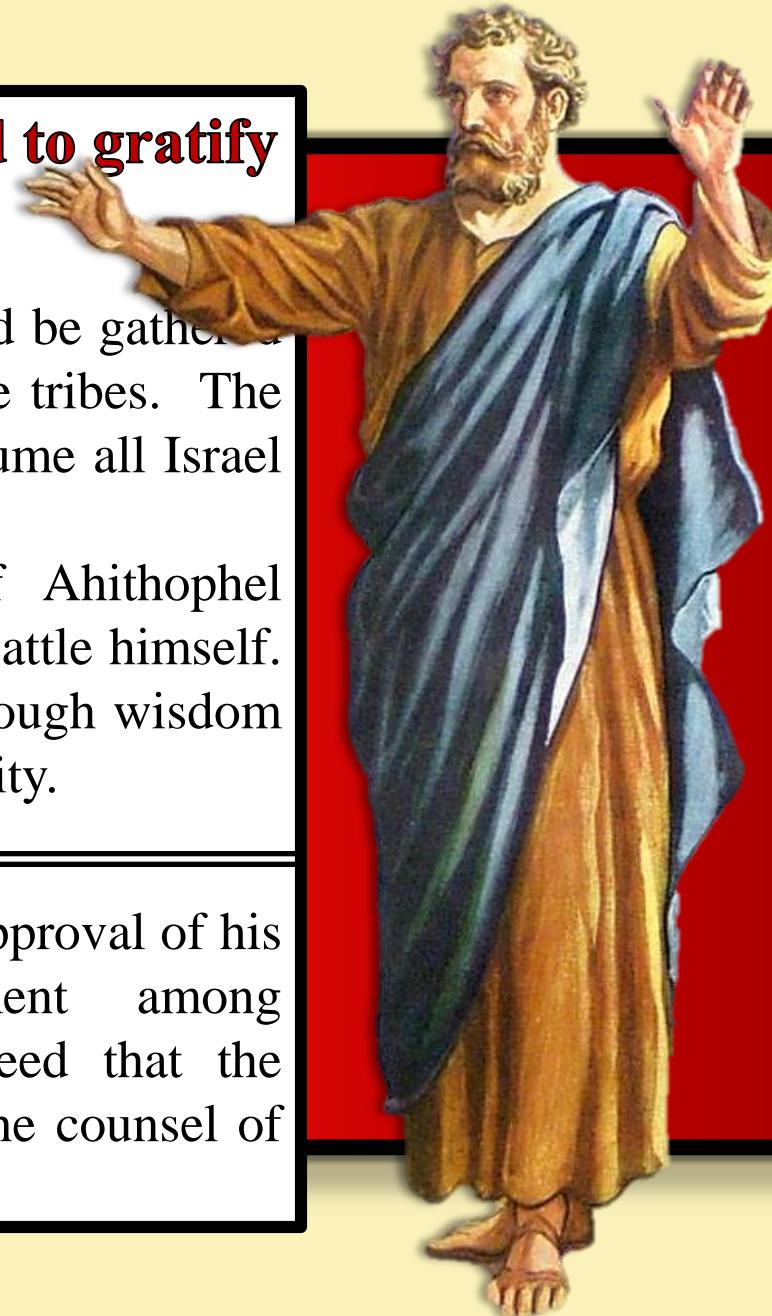


Hushi's advice was concocted to gratify Absalom's pride.

First he advised that all Israel should be gathered together, that is, the militia of all the tribes. The pride of Absalom caused him to assume all Israel wanted him as their king.

Secondly he advised the opposite of Ahithophel when he insisted Absalom lead the battle himself. This appealed to Absalom's pride though wisdom should have warned him of venerability.

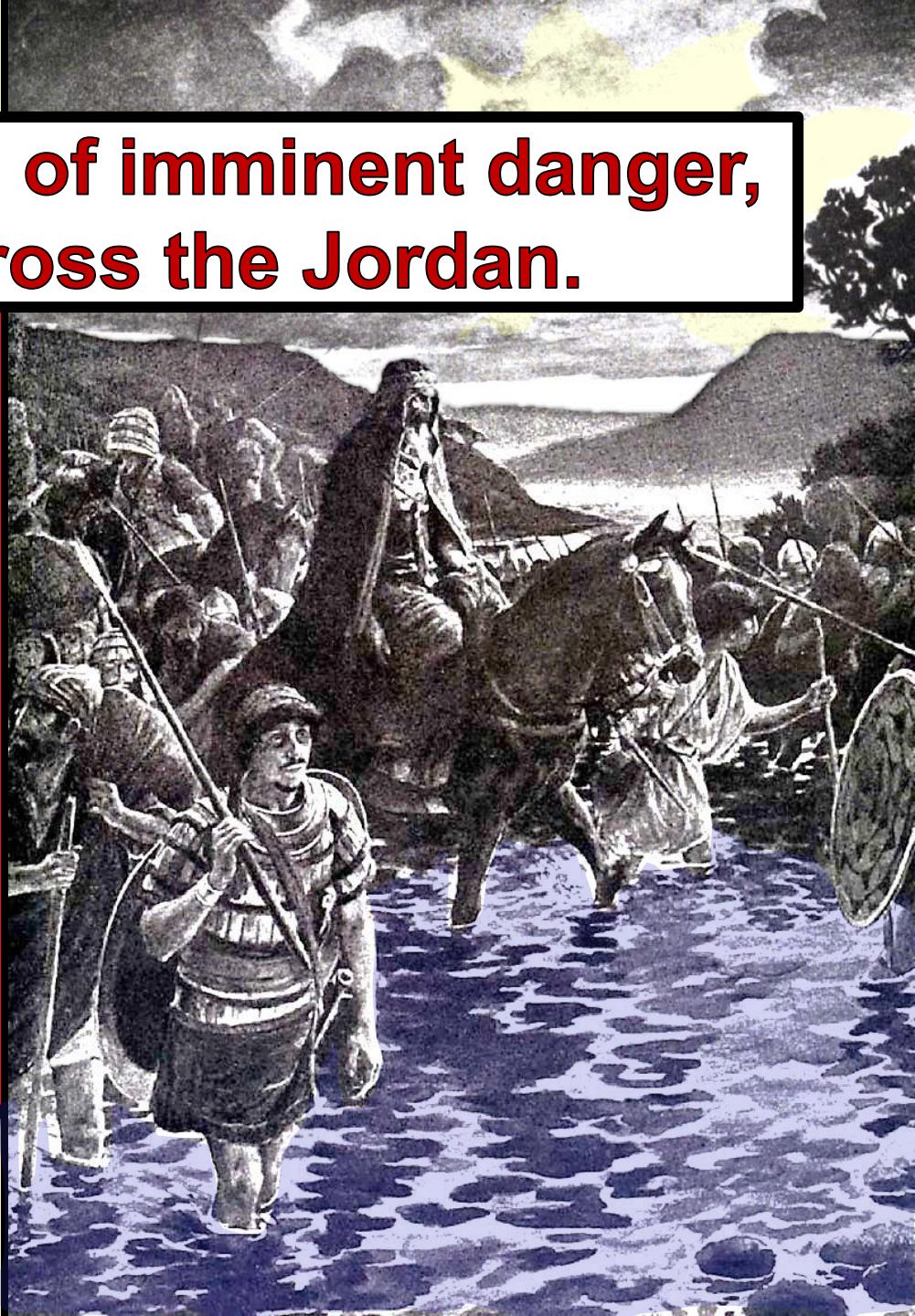
Hushai gained not only Absalom's approval of his advice but unanimous agreement among Absalom's leaders. They all agreed that the counsel of Hushai was better than the counsel of Ahithophel.



David was warned of imminent danger, so he fled across the Jordan.

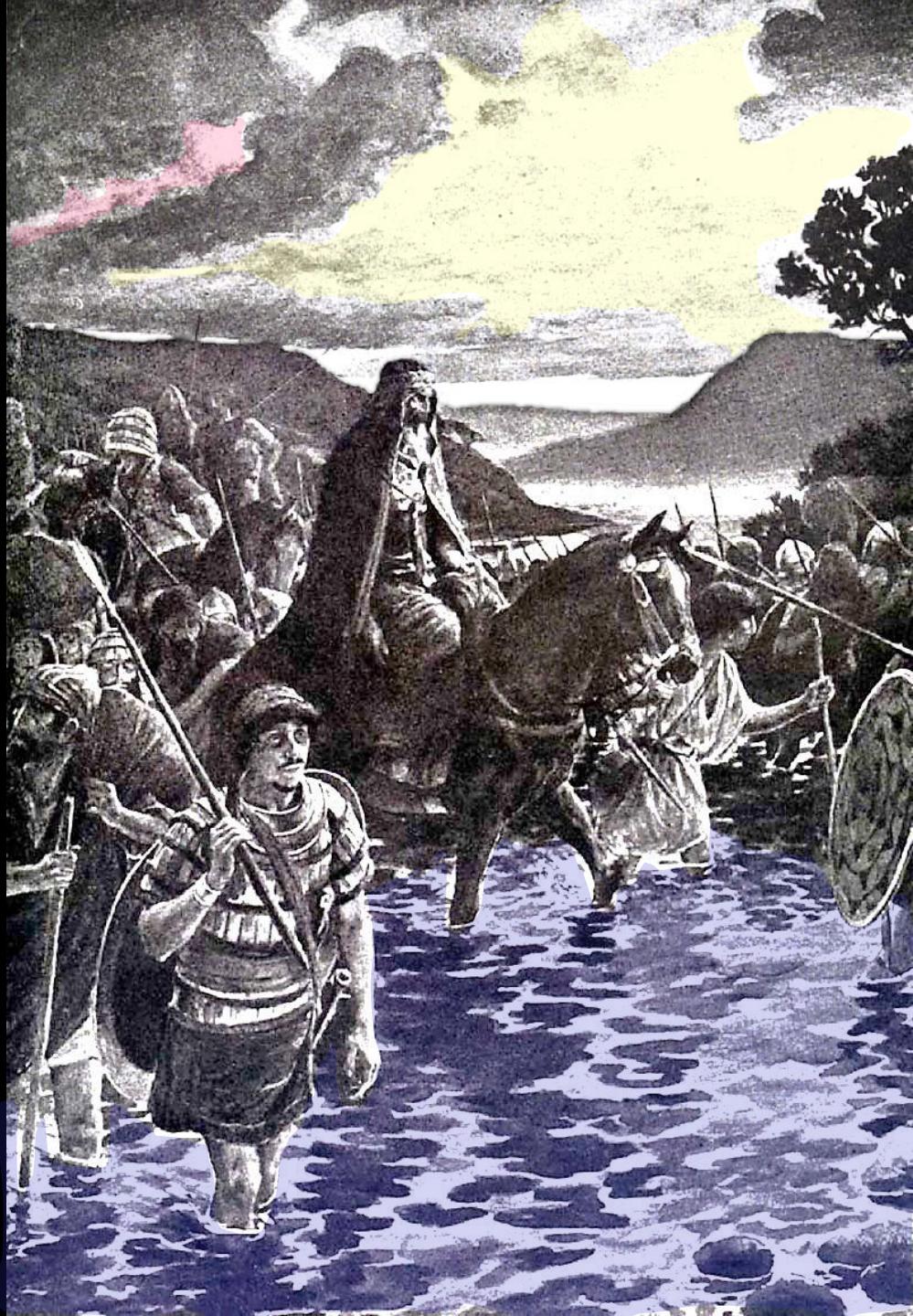
2 Samuel 17

“¹⁵Then said Hushai unto Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and thus have I counselled. ¹⁶Now therefore send quickly, and tell David, saying, Lodge not this night in the plains of the wilderness, but speedily pass over; lest the king be swallowed up, and all the people that are with him . . .”



2 Samuel 17

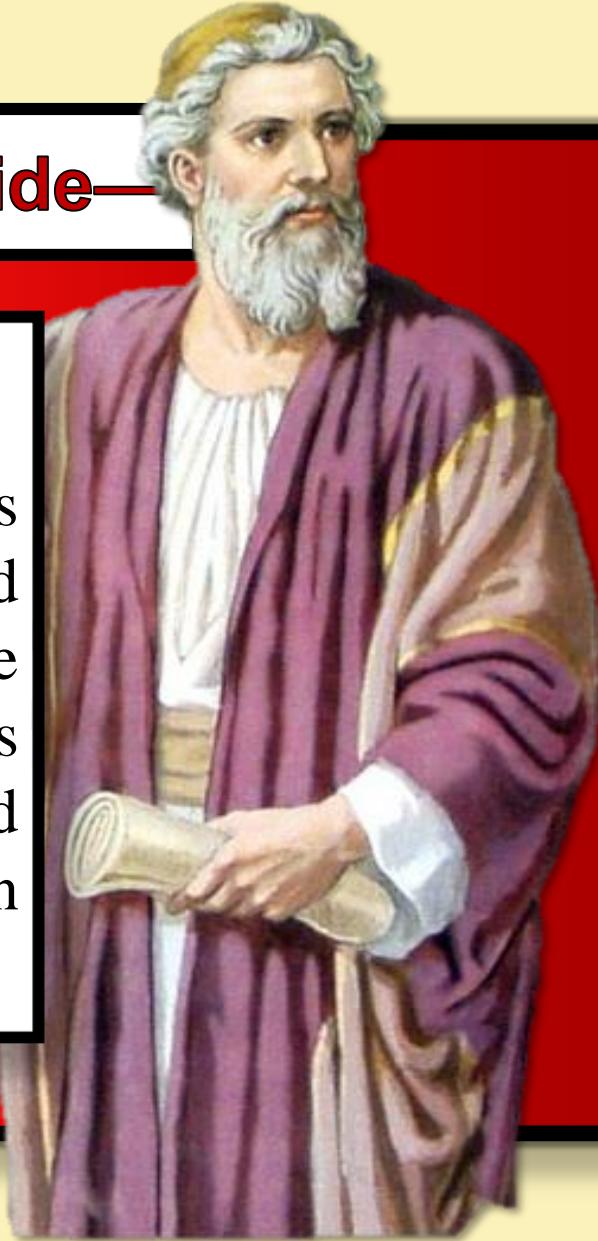
“²²Then David arose, and all the people that were with him, and they passed over Jordan: by the morning light there lacked not one of them that was not gone over Jordan.”



Ahithophel committed suicide—

2 Samuel 17

“²³And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.”



Ahitophel committed suicide—

Remember, 2 Samuel 16:23 said that Ahithophel's counsel had always been so respected that when he was consulted it was as if a man consulted "at the oracle of God." So, when Absalom went with Hushai's counsel rather than Ahithophel's it was as if his identity had been taken and his power.



Ahithophel committed suicide—

He hanged himself because of **ANGER** and **FEAR** that his counsel was not followed by Absalom—

ANGER: He thought himself slighted and a terrible slur cast upon his reputation for wisdom.

FEAR: Should David overthrow Absalom he knew he would be David's greatest enemy for the advice he had given Absalom to lie with David's concubines.



MAHANAIM

A Levite City in the
tribe of Gad

2 Samuel 17

“²⁴Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom passed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him. ²⁵And Absalom made Amasa captain of the host instead of Joab . . . ²⁶So Israel and Absalom pitched in the land of Gilead.”



David had loyal subjects from all over the kingdom that were coming to his aid.



2 Samuel 17

“²⁷And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that **Shobi** the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and **Machir** the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and **Barzillai** the Gileadite of Rogelim, ²⁸Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched corn, and beans, and lentiles, and parched pulse, ²⁹And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat: for they said, The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.”

David settled in at Mahanaim. His forces were arranged under the three great military officers who remained faithful to him—

Joab

Captain of the host

Abishai

Captain of “the mighty men”

Ittai

Captain of the guard



The historian Josephus says there were, in all, only about 4,000 in David's army. David's men wisely persuaded him not to go in person to the battle. They knew the goal of the enemy was simply to kill David.

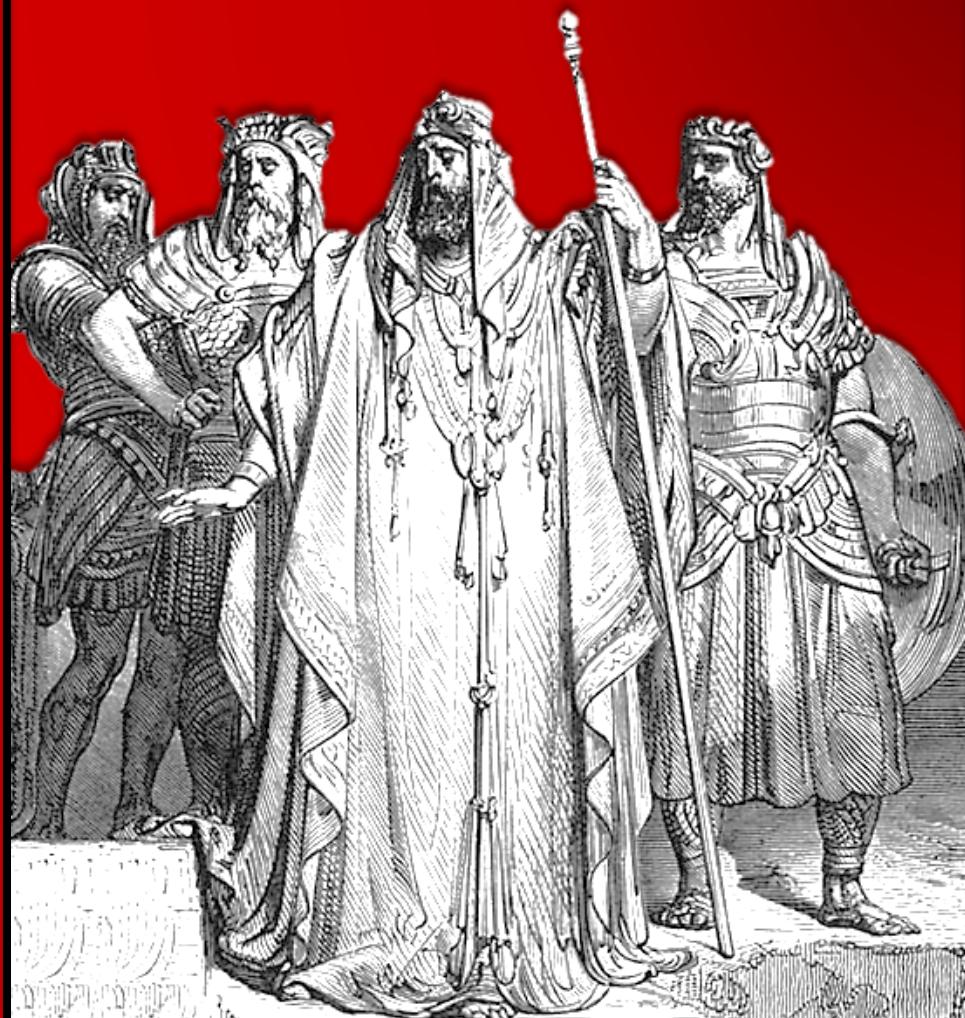


2 Samuel 18

“⁵And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying,

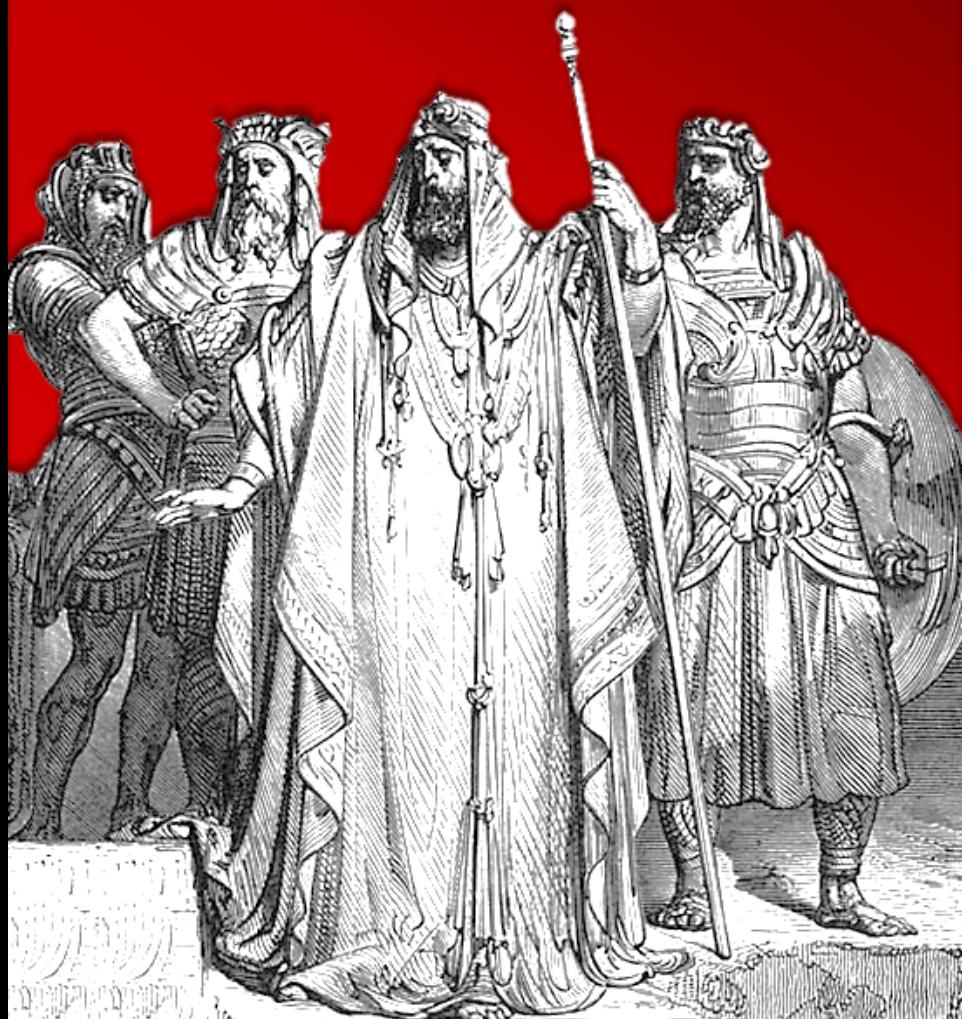
Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom.

And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.”



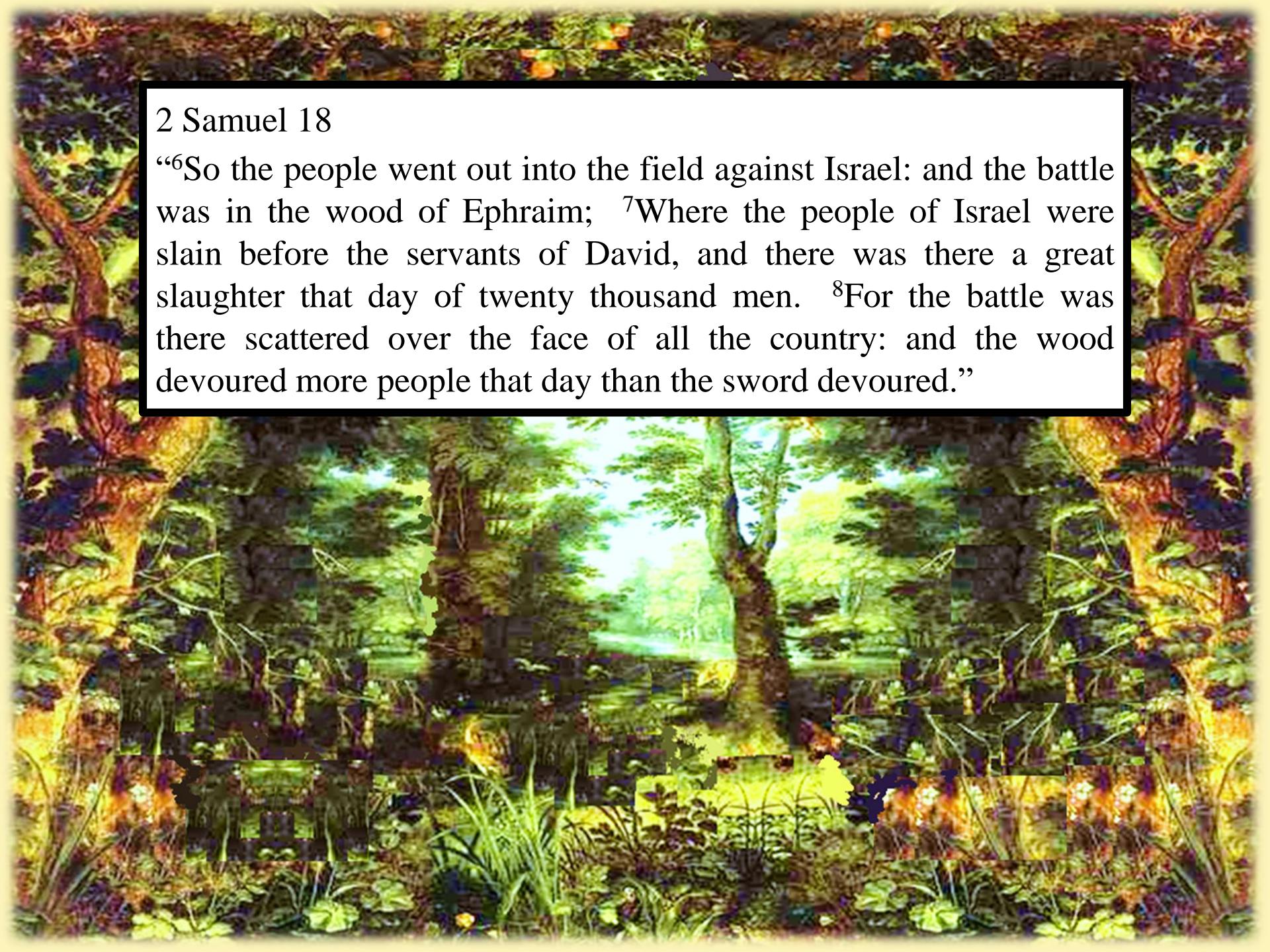
Absalom was trying to take everything from David, the throne, his home, his concubines, his loyal subjects, his wealth and power, and he was trying to kill David!

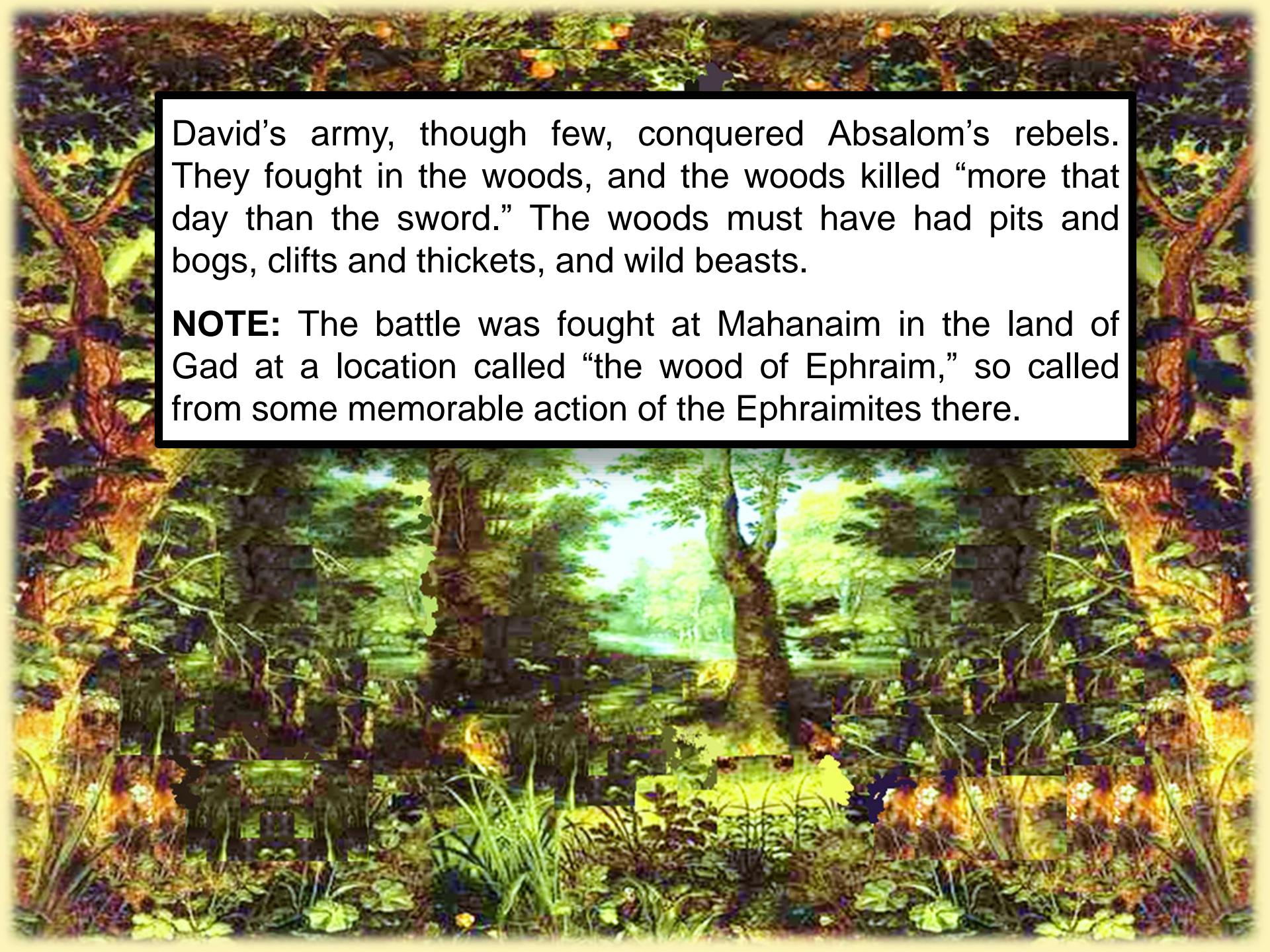
Yet, David loved his son and wanted no harm to come to him.



2 Samuel 18

“⁶So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim; ⁷Where the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David, and there was there a great slaughter that day of twenty thousand men. ⁸For the battle was there scattered over the face of all the country: and the wood devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.”





David's army, though few, conquered Absalom's rebels. They fought in the woods, and the woods killed "more than the sword." The woods must have had pits and bogs, cliffs and thickets, and wild beasts.

NOTE: The battle was fought at Mahanaim in the land of Gad at a location called "the wood of Ephraim," so called from some memorable action of the Ephraimites there.

2 Samuel 18

“⁹And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.”



2 Samuel 18

“¹⁰And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak. ¹¹And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten shekels of **silver, and a girdle.**”

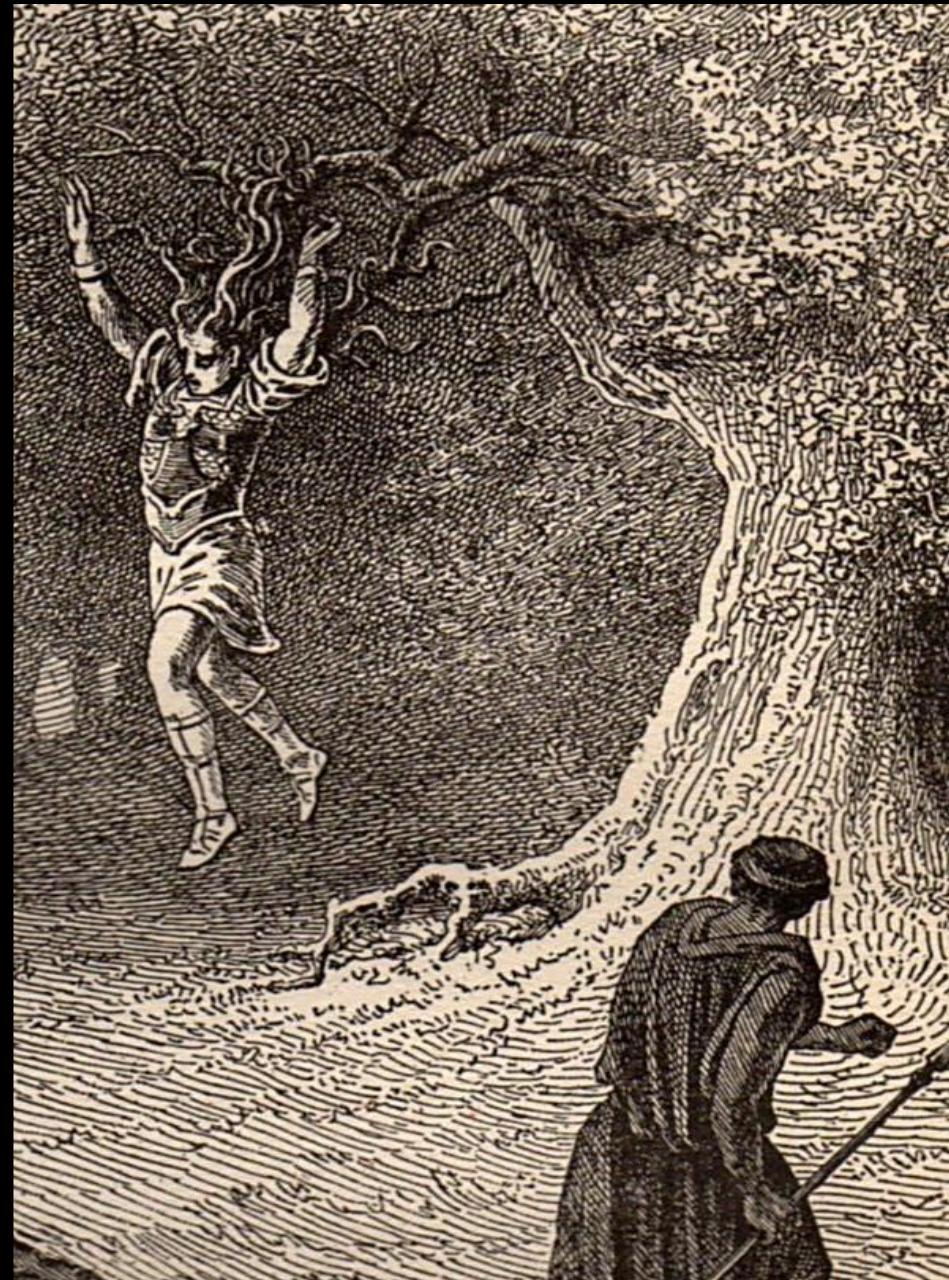
Silver and a girdle—

Perhaps a captain's commission signified by a belt or girdle.



2 Samuel 18

“¹²And the man said unto **Joab**, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king’s son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and **Abishai** and **Ittai**, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom. ¹³Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against me.”



2 Samuel 18

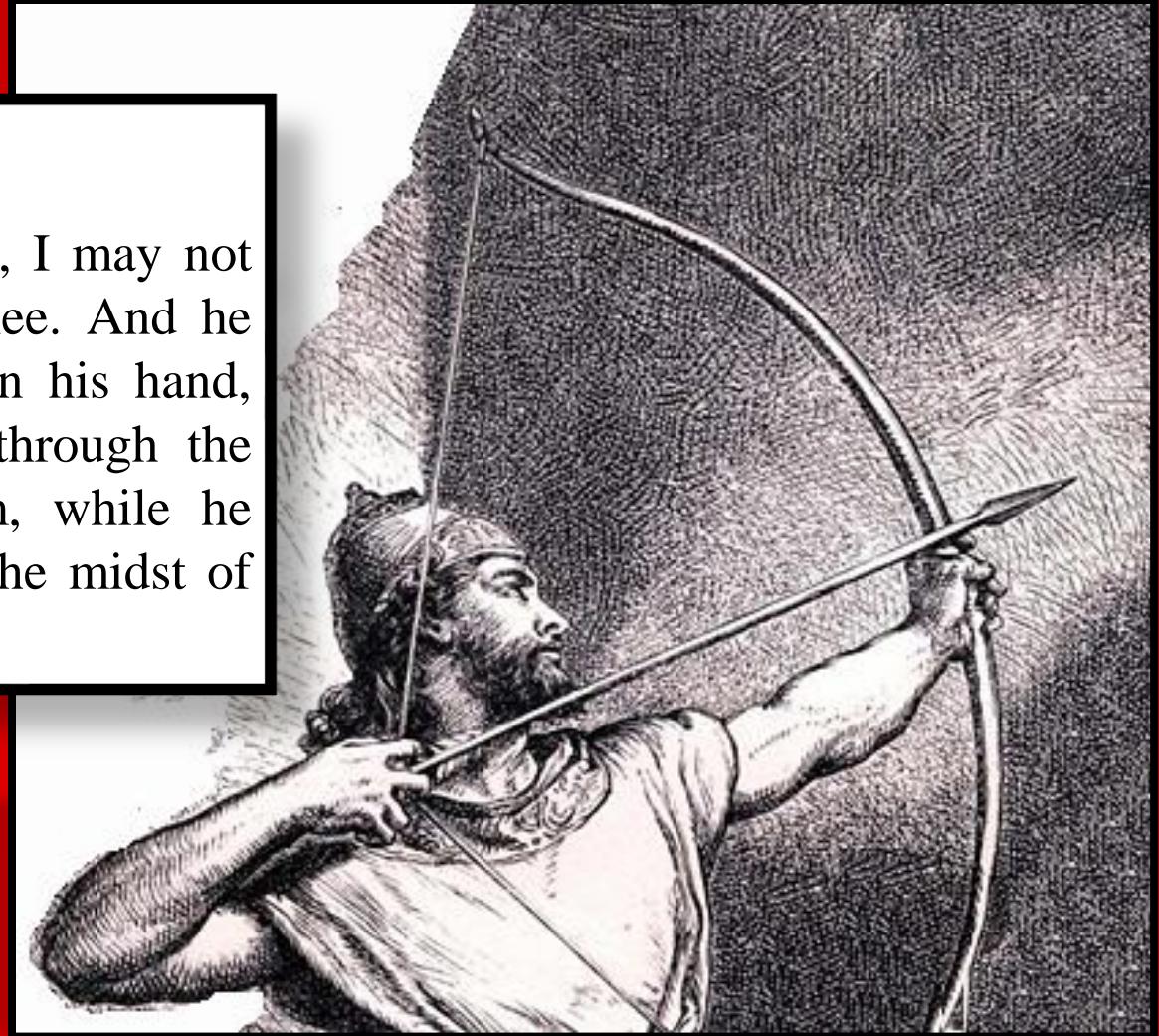
“¹²And the man said unto **Joab**, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king’s son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and **Abishai** and **Ittai**, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom. ¹³Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against me.”

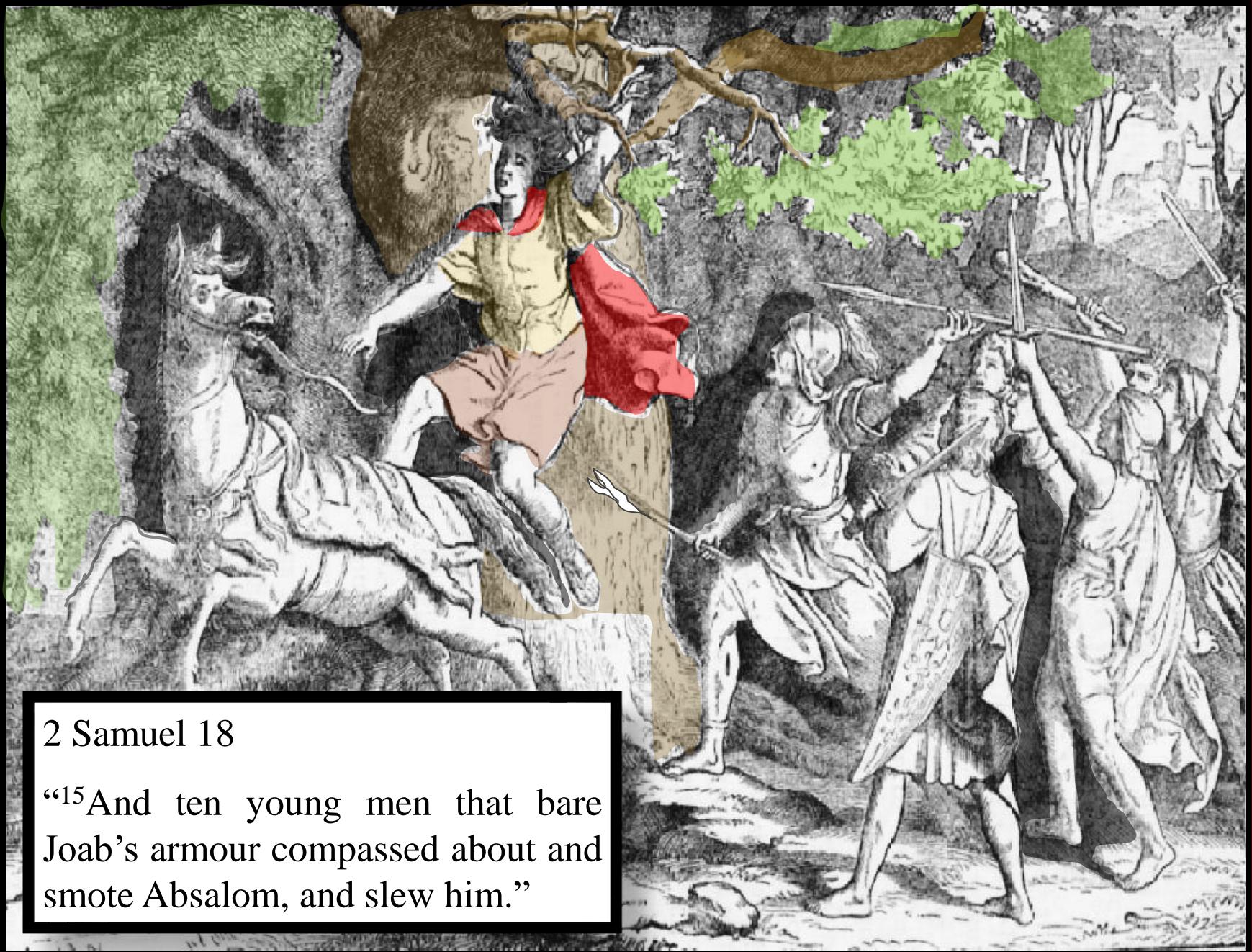
Joab, Abishai, and Ittai were the very men David told to deal gently Absalom!



2 Samuel 18

“¹⁴Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.”





2 Samuel 18

“¹⁵And ten young men that bare Joab’s armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.”

2 Samuel 18

“¹⁶And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the people. ¹⁷And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him: and all Israel fled every one to his tent.”



His body was disposed of disgracefully—

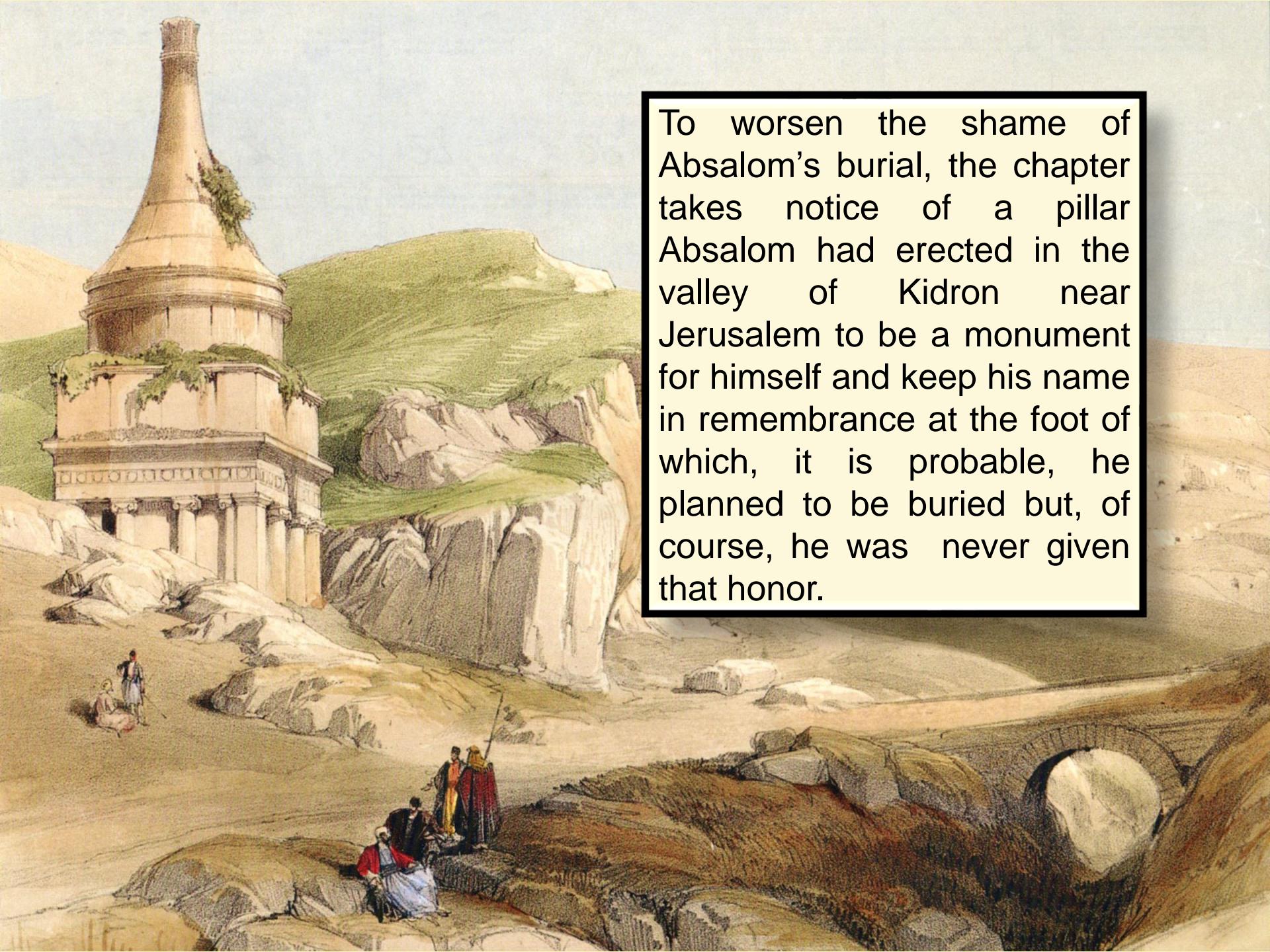
They did not bring David Absalom's body. Nor did they preserve it to be buried but threw it into a pit with indignation. Now where is the beauty he had been so proud of and for which he had been so much admired? They laid a heap of stones upon him to be a monument of his villainy and possibly to signify that he ought to have been stoned as a rebellious son (cf. Deut. 21:18-21).



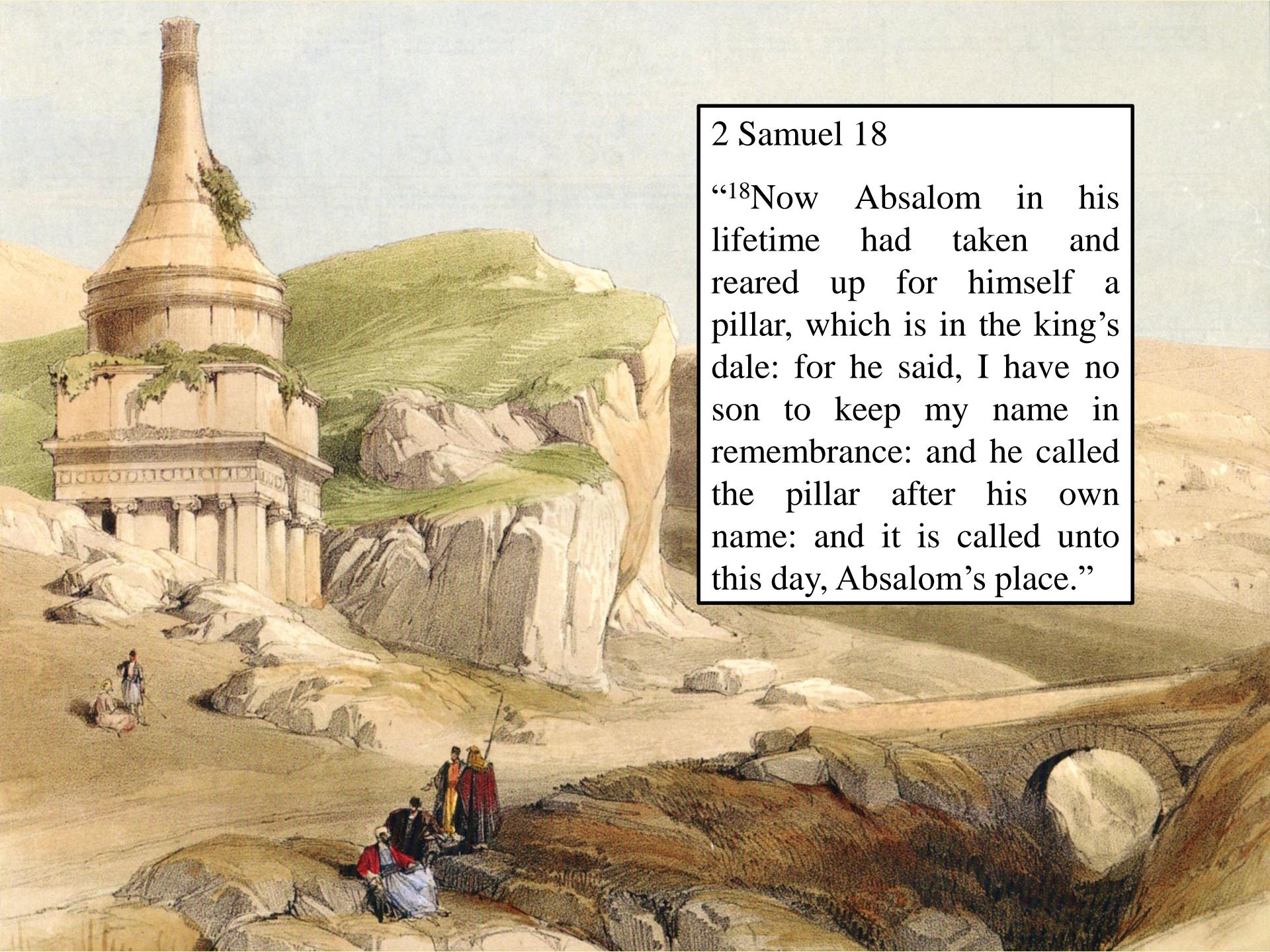
Travelers say that the place is taken note of to this day, and that it is common for passers-by to throw a stone to this heap and say:

“Cursed be the memory of rebellious Absalom, and cursed for ever be all wicked children that rise up in rebellion against their parents.”





To worsen the shame of Absalom's burial, the chapter takes notice of a pillar Absalom had erected in the valley of Kidron near Jerusalem to be a monument for himself and keep his name in remembrance at the foot of which, it is probable, he planned to be buried but, of course, he was never given that honor.



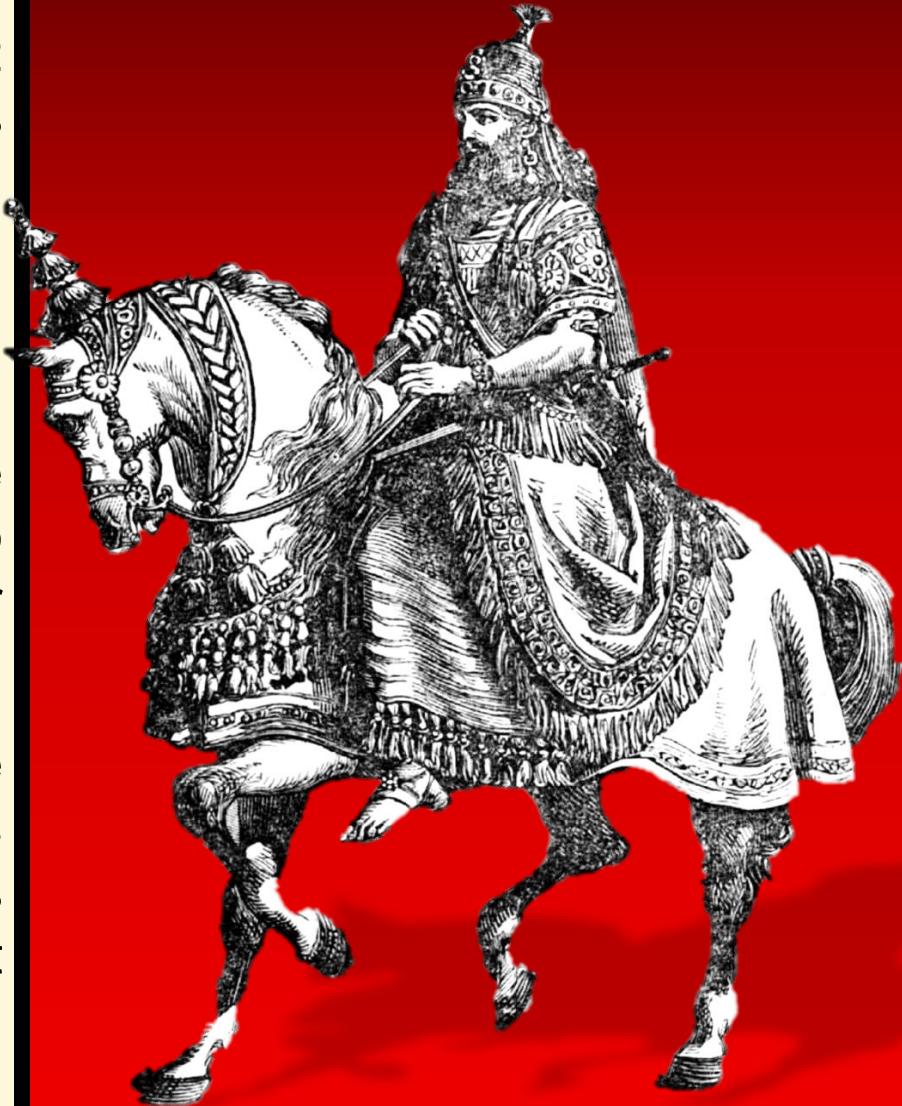
2 Samuel 18

“¹⁸Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which is in the king’s dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom’s place.”

Absalom had three sons (2 Samuel 14:27), but it seems now he had none; they had been taken away by death; and justly is a rebellious son written childless.

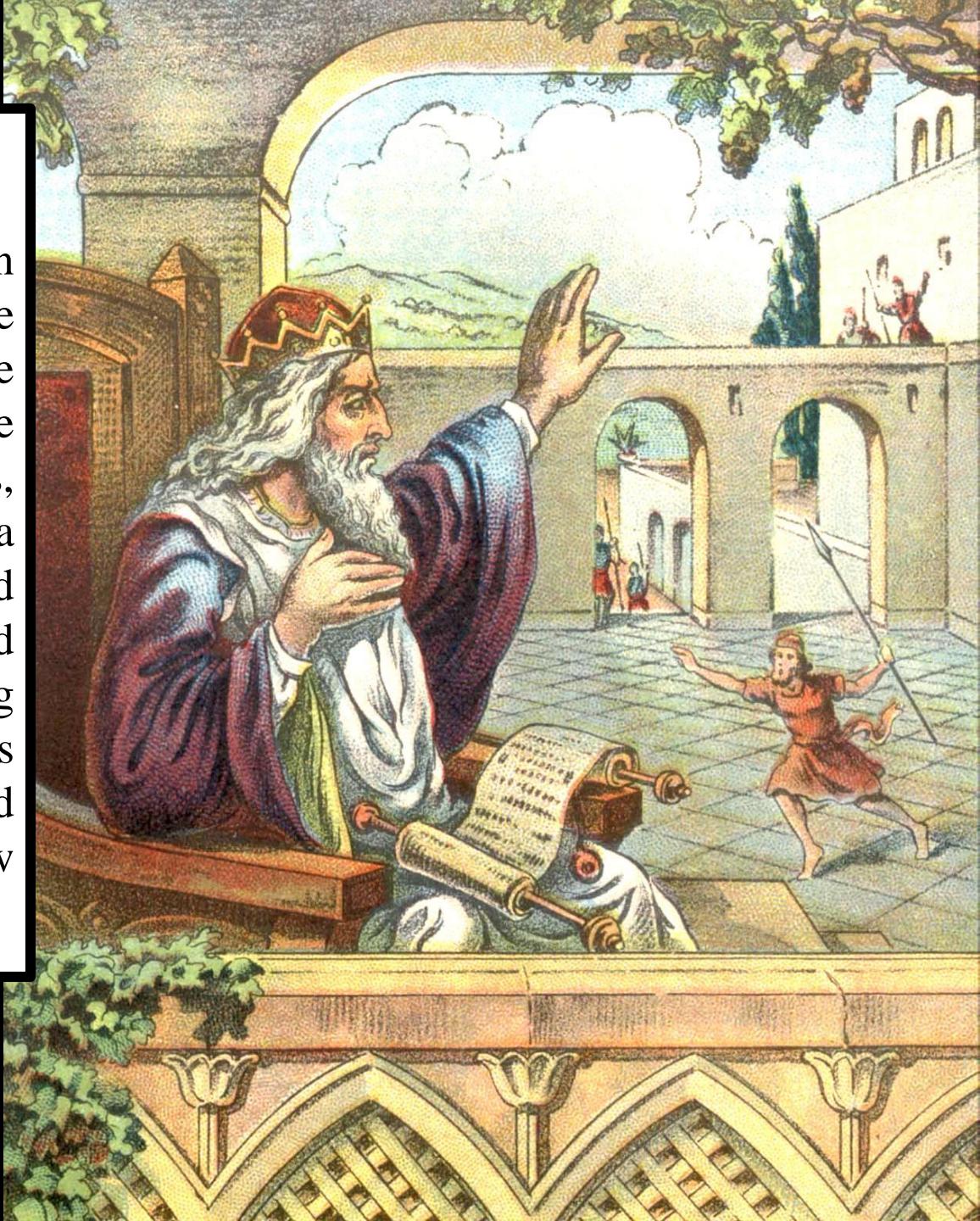
He built his tower that he might be remembered, and so he is remembered . . . for being dishonorable.

He was not content in the obscurity of the rest of David's sons, of whom nothing is recorded but their names, but wanted to be famous and is . . . forever infamous.



2 Samuel 18

“²⁴And David sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone. ²⁵And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he be alone, there is tidings in his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near.”



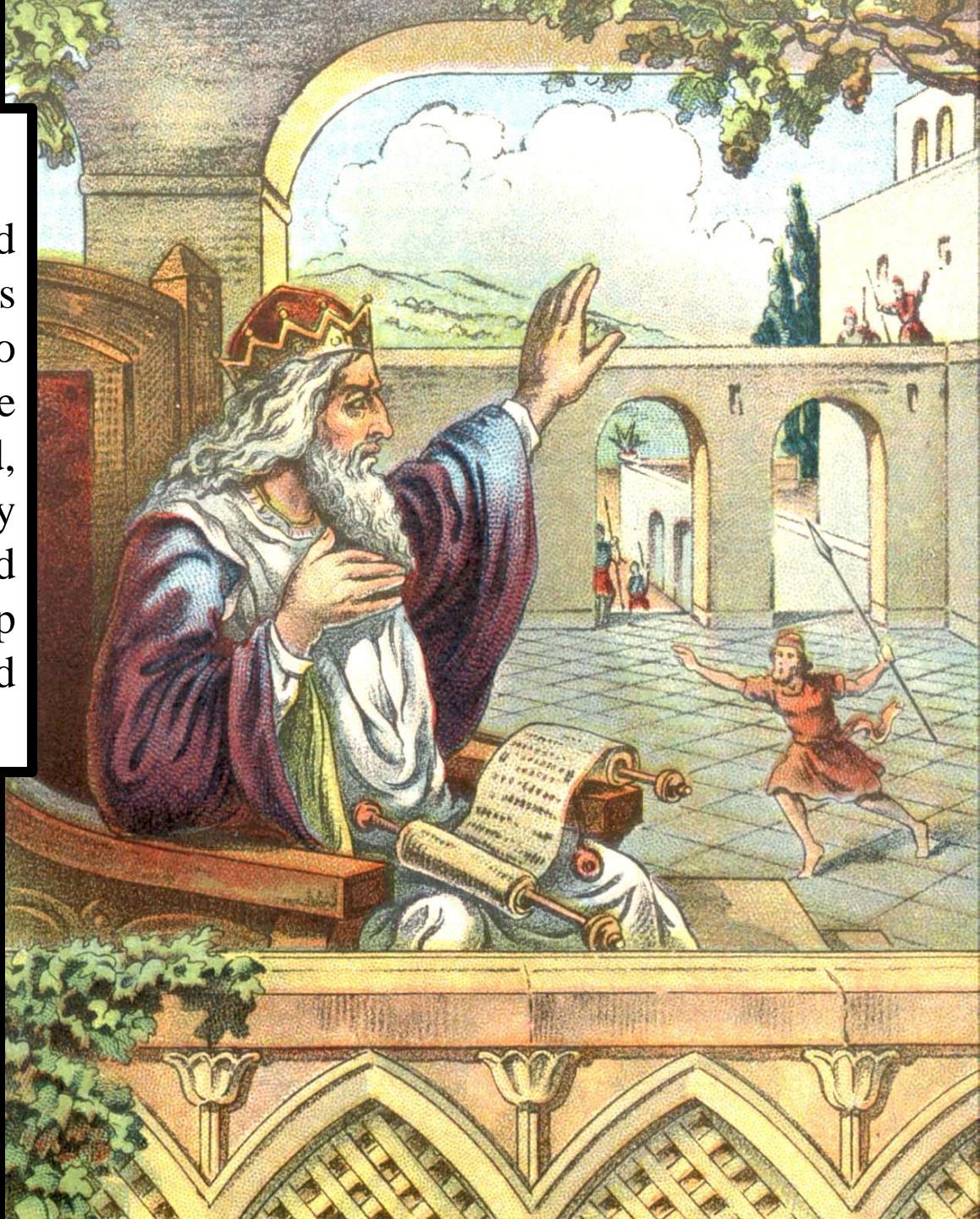
2 Samuel 18

“²⁶And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold another man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings. ²⁷And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good man, and cometh with good tidings.”



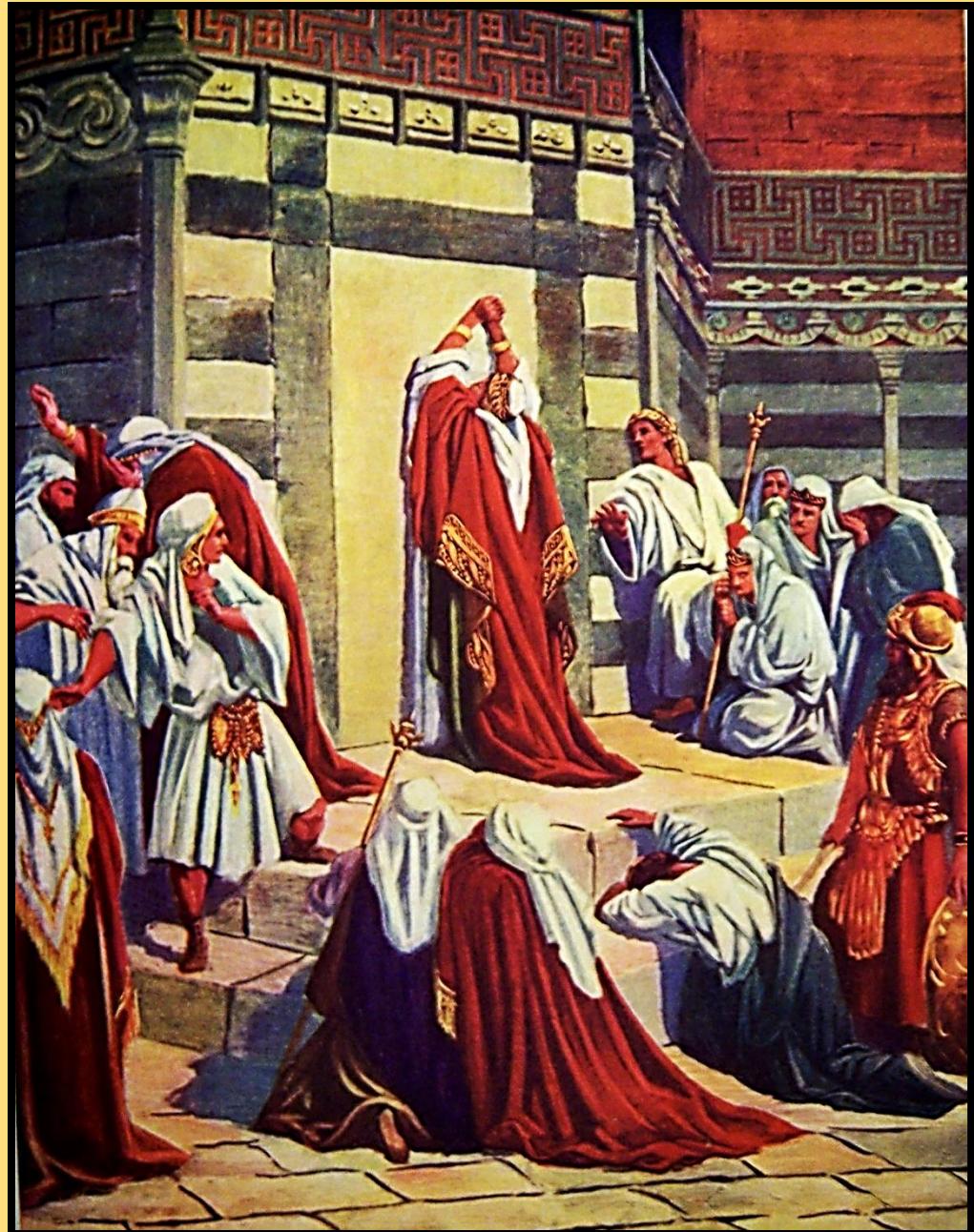
2 Samuel 18

“²⁸And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed be the LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.”



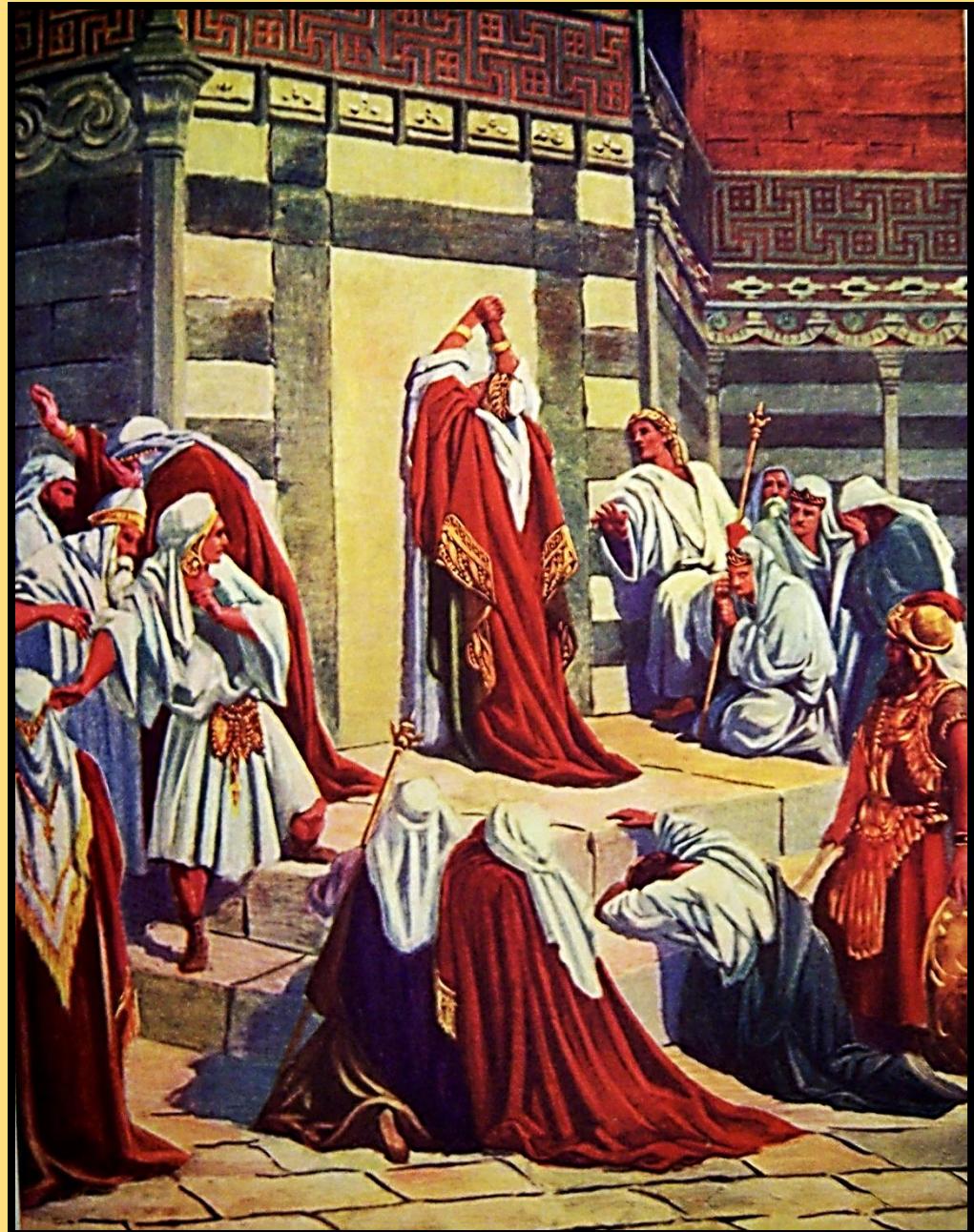
2 Samuel 18

“²⁹And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king’s servant, and me thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was. ³⁰And the king said unto him, Turn aside, and stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still.”



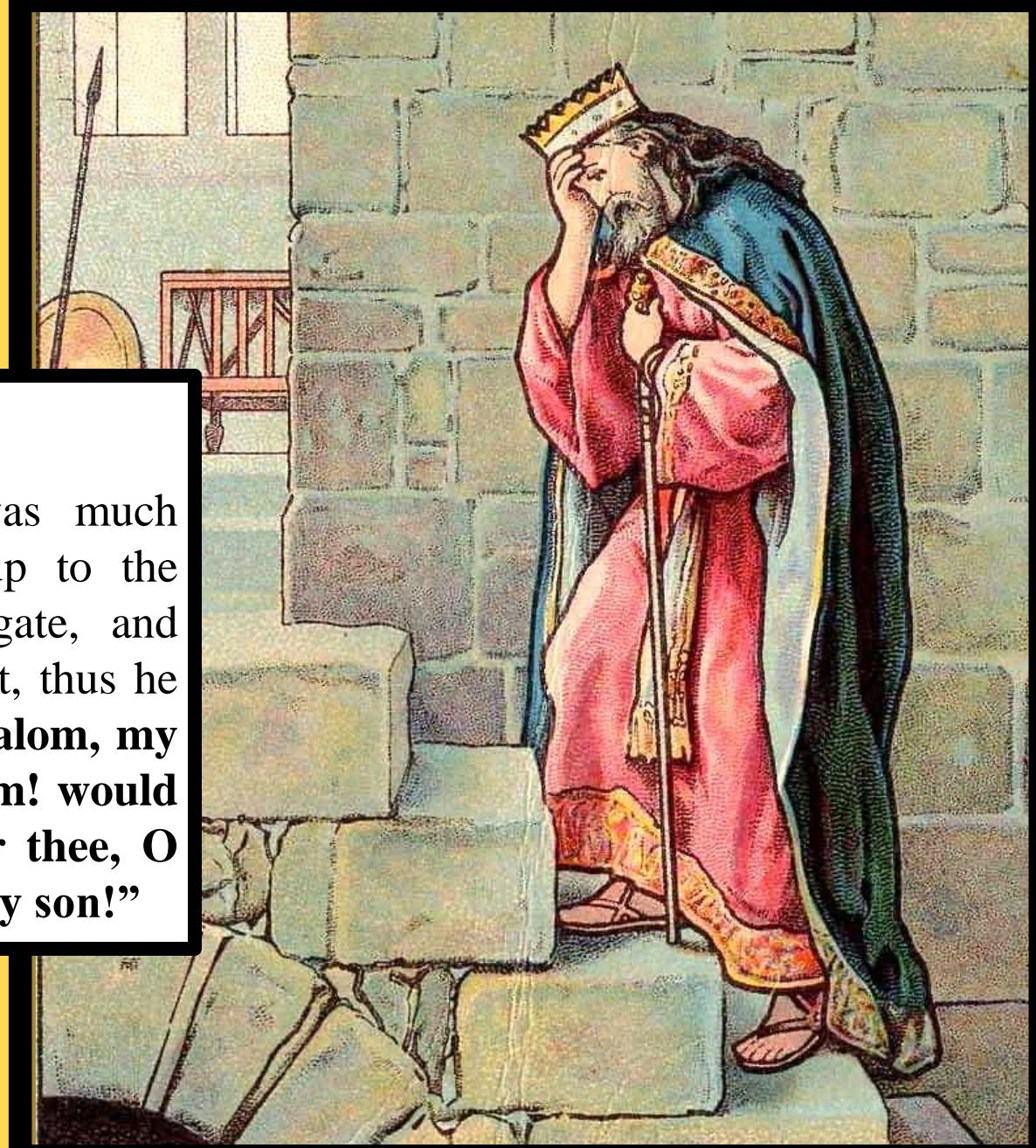
2 Samuel 18

“³¹And, behold, Cushi came; and Cushi said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee. ³²And the king said unto Cushi, **Is the young man Absalom safe?** And Cushi answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.”

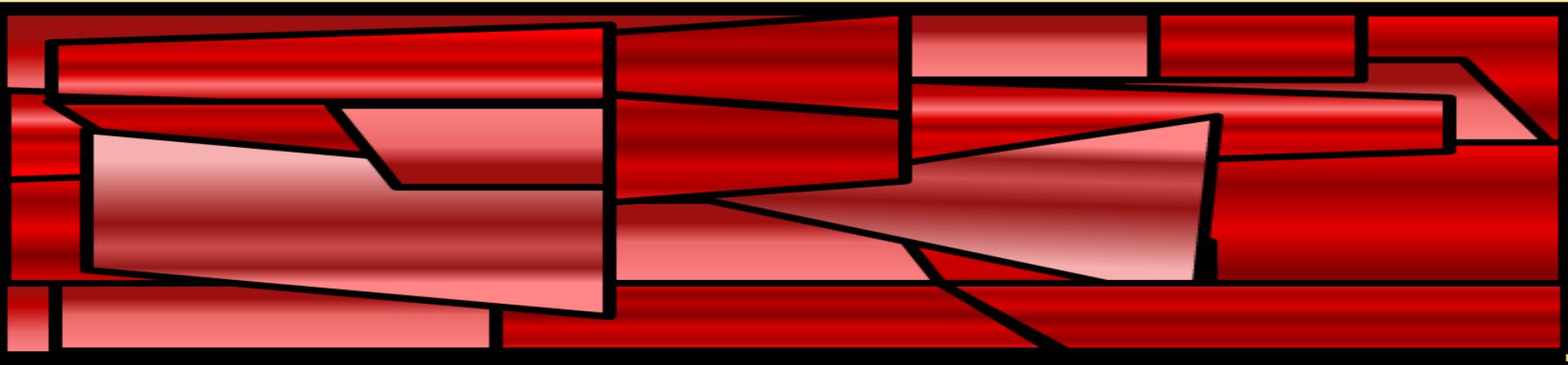
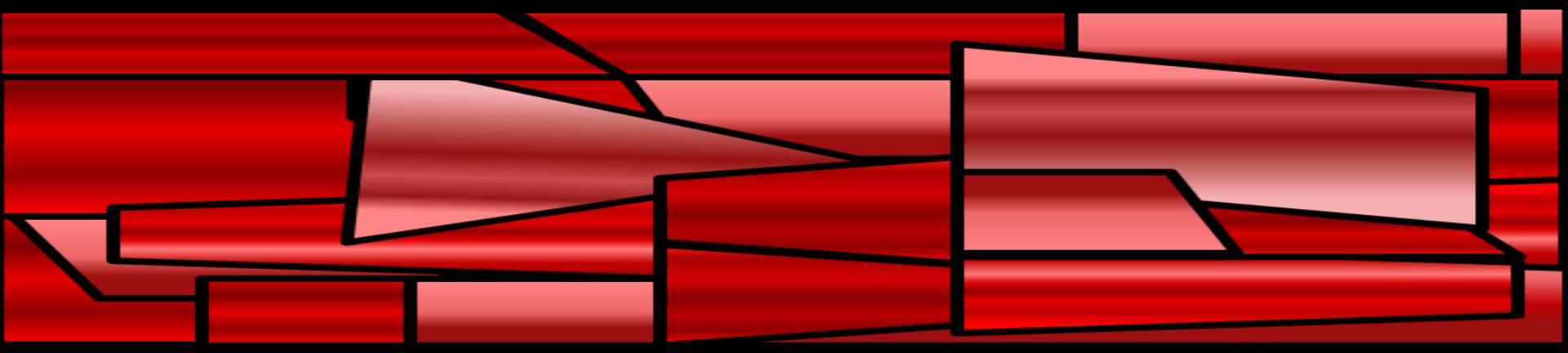


2 Samuel 18

“³³And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, **O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!**”



**David Again
Reigned In Peace
In Jerusalem.**



THE END