

## Lost In The Credits

### *Ahithophel*

(2 Samuel 16:20-17:23)

- Introduction:
1. To many, Ahithophel may be an unfamiliar name, but it was a name that was very familiar to King David.
  2. In fact, Ahithophel was one of David's most trusted counselors, yet their relationship takes a tragic twist.
  3. Let's examine what Scripture says about him, and then draw out some lessons.

#### I. Background to Ahithophel

- A. David's son, Absalom rebelled against his father (2 Samuel 15:1-12).
- B. David had to flee for his life from Jerusalem (2 Samuel 15:13-14).
- C. While David was fleeing, he was informed that Ahithophel had deserted him and joined with the conspirators (2 Samuel 15:31).
- D. Ahithophel was a counselor and friend to David who was highly respected (2 Samuel 16:23).
- E. Ahithophel advises Absalom to shame and humiliate David (2 Samuel 16:21-22).
- F. Ahithophel then advised Absalom to allow him to take men and kill David, but Absalom rejected his advice (2 Samuel 17:1-4, 14).
- G. Because of this, Ahithophel killed himself (2 Samuel 17:23).

#### II. Lessons To Learn From Ahithophel

- A. Don't be an opportunist.
  1. (James 1:8) - Double minded man.
  2. (2 Samuel 15:12).
  3. Contrast this with (Nehemiah 6:2-7).
- B. Don't think too much of a man.
  1. (2 Samuel 16:23).
  2. His advice was flawed. He proved to be untrustworthy. Yet, he was followed.
  3. (2 Timothy 4:1-4; 1 John 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1-3).
  4. David was hurt by this betrayal (Psalm 41:9; 55:12-14).
- C. Beware of Pride
  1. (1 Chronicles 27:33) - Ahithophel was the king's counselor.
  2. Think how that could lead to pride.
  3. (Proverbs 16:18).
- D. Don't Give Place to Bitterness
  1. There has to be some reason that Ahithophel reacted so strongly against David.
  2. He wanted him dead and when he couldn't kill him, he killed himself.
  3. There is a backstory - (2 Samuel 23:34; 2 Samuel 11:2).
  4. (Matthew 18:21-35).