



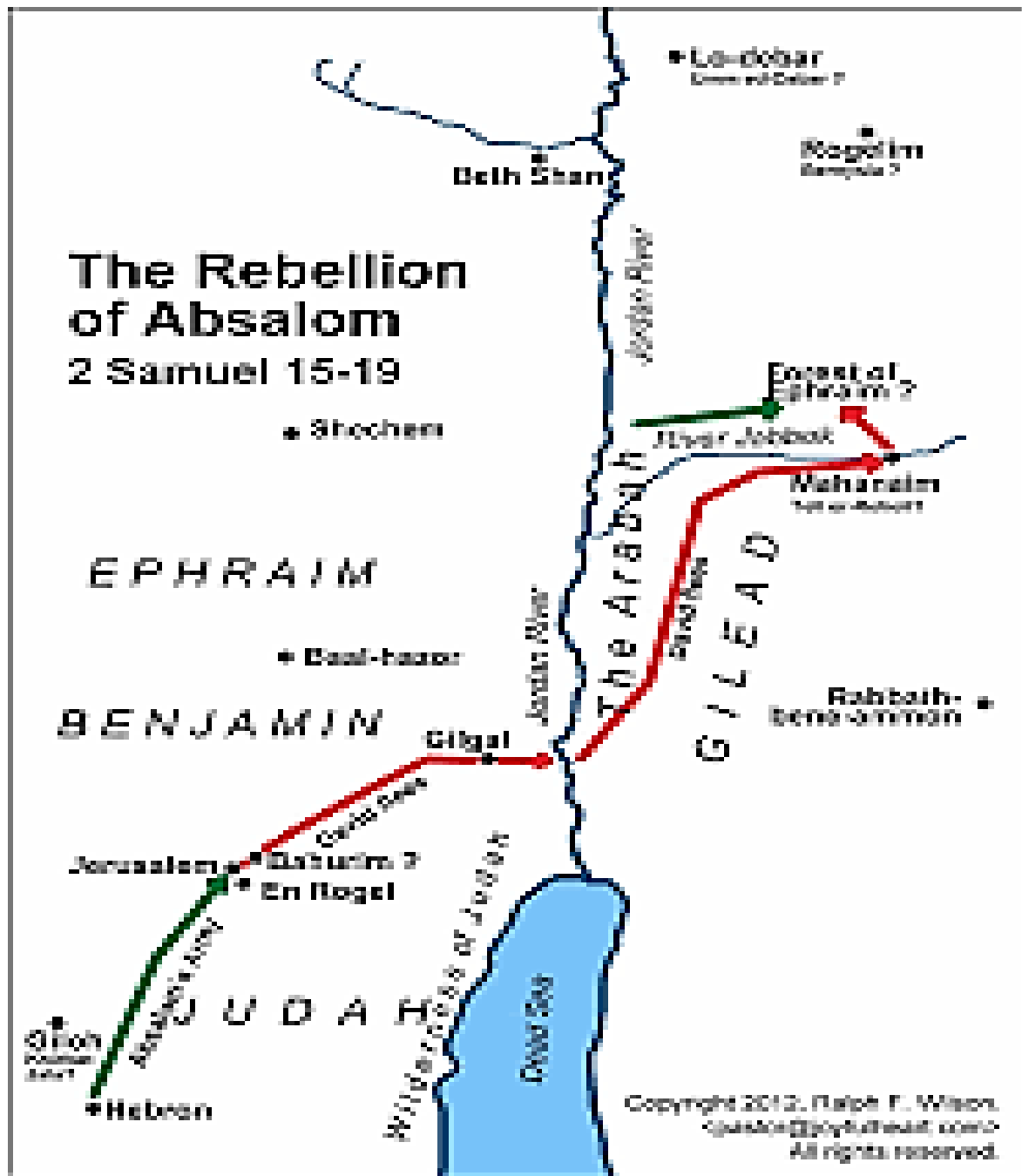
Adult Sunday School

Lesson-16: David flees and the advice of Hushai and Ahitophel

Date:
30 Oct 2022
(Sunday)

Time: 9.40am

Venue: Sanctuary



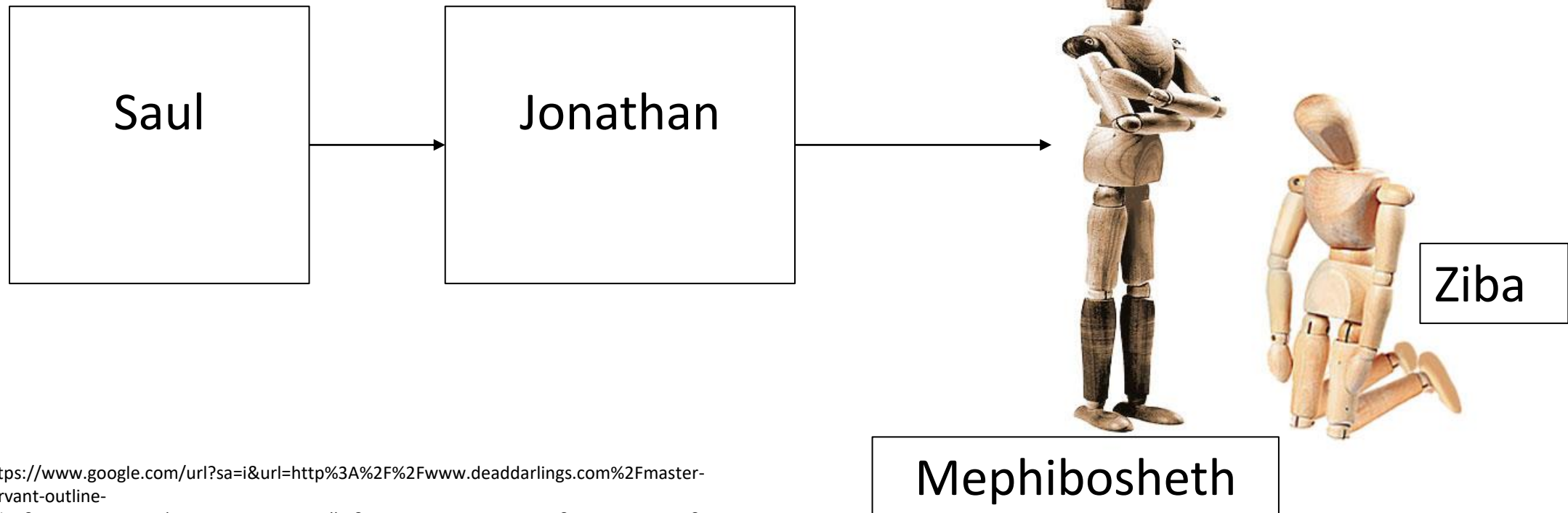
(1) Background: Absalom rebelled against David from Hebron.

(2) David fled from Jerusalem to the Forest of Ephraim.

(3) Along the way, David met Ziba (2 Sam 16:1-4)

(a) Ziba was a servant of Mephibosheth.

(b) Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan and therefore the grandson of Saul.



	What Ziba said to David	David's response	Comment
	<p>Ziba brought many gifts for David. Ziba said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Donkeys are for David's family to ride on,(b) Bread is for David's men to eat, and(c) Wine for those who are exhausted.	<p>Where is Mephibosheth?</p>	

	What Ziba said to David	David's response	Comment
	<p>Ziba said that: Mephibosheth is staying in Jerusalem. Mephibosheth thinks that he will get back Saul's kingdom as David has fled.</p>	<p>David accepted what was said by Ziba. He was displeased with Mephibosheth.</p> <p>David ordered that all Mephibosheth's property would be confiscated and given to Ziba.</p>	<p>Ziba lied to David. Plausible reasons: (a) Paint Mephibosheth (Ziba's master) as the bad guy and he the good guy. (b) He was trying to win favours from David by bringing gifts.</p> <p>Read 2 Sam 19:26-29.</p>

(4) Spiritual Lessons

(a) Are we “Ziba”?

- Do we speak ill of others?
- Do we defame the character of other people?

(b) Are we “David” who believe in what “Ziba” said about Mephibosheth?

- We hear gossips from friends about the bad behaviour of others, are we like “David” who would believe wholly without verifying the facts?

(c) We must be careful when we speak ill of others because if we are wrong, we would be defaming another person. (Psalm 101:5)

(d) If we hear gossips of bad character of another person, we must be careful to accept it as truth. Do not be like David who acted wrongly based on Ziba's lie. Postpone our judgment till there is proof.

(5) David moved on and met Shimei (2 Sam 16:5-14)

Shimei belonged to the same clan as Saul's family. Shimei started cursing loudly at David.

	What Shimei said to David	David's response	Comment
	Shimei said and did: (a) Cursed David (b) Threw stones at David and his men (c) Cursed David that he was a scoundrel. (2 Sam 16:7-8)		

	What Shimei said to David	David's response	Comment
		<p>David's man, Abishai wanted to kill Shimei. But David said that:</p> <p>My own son is trying to kill me. Shouldn't this relative of Saul have even more reason to do so? Leave him alone and let him curse, for the Lord has told him to do it.</p>	<p>Refer to Spiritual Lessons</p>

(6) Spiritual Lessons

(a) Are we “Shimei”?

- Cursing at another person when he/she has fallen?

(b) Are we a “David” who understood that God is in absolute control of all circumstances including “bad” ones. David accepted that Shimei’s cursing and throwing of rocks at them were appointed by God for him.

Are we willing to accept “bad” events appointed for us?

(7) Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, Absalom met Hushai and Ahitophel.

(a) Hushai was the spy sent by David.

(b) Ahitophel was a traitor to David. He was initially a close confidante of David then changed loyalty to Absalom.

(8) Exchange between Absalom and Hushai

S/No.	Hushai	Absalom	Comment
A.	<p>Greeted Absalom with “God save the king”. (2 Sam 16:16)</p> <p>“I’m here because I work for the man who is chosen by God and Israel.” (2 Sam 16:18)</p>	<p>“Is this the way you treat your friend David? Why aren’t you with him?” (2 Sam 16:17)</p>	<p>Hushai wanted to be accepted by Absalom. He paid respect to Absalom as the king.</p> <p>Absalom was surprised that Hushai was not with David.</p>

S/No.	Hushai	Absalom	Comment
	<p>“Anyway, why shouldn’t I serve you? I helped your father, and now I will help you.” (2 Sam 16:19)</p>		<p>Hushai acted falsely and deceived Absalom that he was willing to change loyalty to Absalom.</p> <p>Hushai’s craftiness and deception cannot be approved by God.</p> <p>Hushai was a spy sent by David to infiltrate Absalom’s camp.</p>

(7) Absalom sought Ahitophel's counsel

S/No.	Absalom	Ahitophel	Comment
	<p>Next, Absalom asked Ahitophel what he should do next. (2 Sam 16:20)</p>	<p>Sleep with David's concubines who were left in the palace (2 Sam 15:16).</p> <p>Then all Israel will know that Absalom had hatred for David.</p> <p>Those who are with Absalom will be strengthened against David. (2 Sam 16:21-22)</p>	<p>It was gross indecency for Absalom to sleep with his father's concubines.</p> <p>Ahitophel proposed this act to show hatred towards David.</p> <p>In so doing, Absalom's men would be strengthened with hatred against David too.</p>

S/No.	Absalom	Ahitophel	Comment
	<p>Absalom erected a tent on top of the palace.</p> <p>He slept with David's concubines for all Israel to see. (2 Sam 16:22)</p>		<p>Ahitophel's counsel was highly respected. It was as though his counsel was wisdom from God.</p> <p>Therefore, Absalom heeded Ahitophel's counsel. (2 Sam 16:23). This was gross indecency and a serious sin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Absalom slept with the concubines to show hatred towards David. (b) The act was committed in public view.

(8) Spiritual Lessons

(a) Hushai

(i) Are we Hushai? Is it right to spy and deceive others for the benefit of 'good people'?

Ans: Although spying and deception have been applied in times of war, it has never been approved biblically. The bible disapproves of lying and deception.

(b) Ahitophel

(i) Are we Ahitophel?

(ii) To give wicked advice to serve a particular interest. This is certainly a grievous sin for Absalom to show hatred towards David by sleeping with David's concubines for all to see.

Consider the following:

(A) In the past, what are the circumstances when we lie to protect others or to obtain a good outcome?

(B) What should we do in those circumstances which would be approved of God?

Questions from the class.