

Chapter 17

Achitophel counfelleth Abfolom prefently to afsault his father with forces, 7. Chufai perfwadeth the contrarie, 15. and fecretly aduertifeth the king therof. 23. Achitophel hangeth him felf. 25. Abfolom appointeth Amafa general of his armie. 27. Other freindes bring victuals to the kinges campe.

Achitophel therefore faid to Abfolom: I wil choofe me twelue thoufand men, and ryfing I wil purfue Daudid this night. ² And falling vpon him (for as much as he is weary, and of weakened handes) I wil ftrike him: and when al the people is fled, that is with him, I fhall ftrike the king being defolate. ³ And I fhall reduce al the people, as one man is wont to returne: for thou feekeft one man: and al the people fhall be in peace. ⁴ And his faying pleaſed Abfalom, and al the ancientes of Ifrael. ⁵ But Abfalom fayd: Cal Chufai the Arachite, and let vs heare what he alfo fayeth. ⁶ And when Chufai was come to Abfalom, Abfalom fayd to him: This maner of ſpeache ſpake Achitophel: fhall we doe it or no? What counſel geueſt thou? ⁷ And Chufai fayd to Abfalom: It is not good counſel, that Achitophel hath geuen this time. ⁸ And agayne Chufai inferred: Thou knoweſt thy father, and the men that are with him, to be verie valiant, and of fel courage, as if a beare in the wood her whelpes being taken away ſhould rage: yea and thy father is a man of warre, neither wil he abyde with the people. ⁹ Perhaps he lyeth now hid fecretely in caues, or in ſome one place where he liſt: and when any one ſhall fal in the beginning, there ſhall one heare whofoeuer ſhall heare it, & fay: There is made a flaughter in the people that folowed Abfalom. ¹⁰ And euerie one of the moſt valiant whoſe hart is as it were a lyons, ſhall fainte for feare: for al the people of Ifrael knowe thy father to be a valiant man, and that al be ſtrong which are with him. ¹¹ But this ſemeth vnto me to be good counſel: Let al Ifrael be gathered to thee, from Dan to Berfabee, as the fand of the ſea innumerable: and

thou shalt be in the middes of them. ¹² And we shal fette vpon them in what place foeuer they shal be found: and we shal couer them, as dew is wont to fal vpon the earth: and we shal not leaue of the men, that are with him, not so much as one. ¹³ And if he shal enter into any citie, al Ifrael shal cast ropes vpon that citie round about, and we wil drawe it into the torrent, that there be not found therof not so much as a litle ftone. ¹⁴ And Abfalom sayd, and al the children of Ifrael: The counfel of Chufai the Arachite is better then the counfel of Achitophel: and by the wil of our Lord was the profitable counfel of Achitophel defeated, that our Lord might bring in euil vpon Abfalom. ¹⁵ And Chufai sayd to Sadoc and Abiathar the priestes: In this and this maner gaue Achitophel counfel to Abfalom, and to the Ancientes of Ifrael: and I gaue such and such counfel. ¹⁶ Now therefore fend quickly, and tel Dauid, saying: Tarie not this night in the champayne of the defert, but without delay passe ouer: lest perhaps the king be fwalowed vp, and al the people that is with him. ¹⁷ And Ionathas & Achimaas stood by the Fountayne rogel: there went a maide and told them: and they went forward, to report the meffage to king Dauid: for they could not be seene, nor enter into the citie. ¹⁸ And a certayne boy saw them, and told Abfalom: but they making haft entered into the house of a certayne man in Bahurim, who had a well in his court, and they went downe into it. ¹⁹ And a woman tooke, and spread a couering ouer the mouth of the well, as it were drying sodde barley: and so the thing was not knowen. ²⁰ And when Abfaloms seruantes were come into the house, they sayd to the woman: Where is Achimaas, and Ionathas? And the woman answered them: They passed in haft, hauing tasted a litle water. But they that sought, when they had not found, returned into Ierufalem. ²¹ And when these were gone, they went vp out of the well, and going on told king Dauid, and sayd: Arise ye, and passe quickly the riuer: because this maner of counfel hath Achitophel geuen against you. ²² Dauid therefore arose, and al the people that was with him, and they passed ouer Iordan, vntil it waxed light, and not one at al was remayning,

which did not passe the riuer. ²³ Moreouer Achitophel feing that his counfel was not executed, fadled his affe, and rofe and went into his houfe and into his citie: and taking order with his houfe, ^a)hanged him felf, and was buried in the fepulchre of his father. ²⁴ But Daudid came into the Campe, and Abfalom paffed ouer Iordan, he and al the men of Ifrael with him. ²⁵ But Abfalom ap-
 poynted Amafa for Ioab ouer the armie: and Amafa was the fonne of a man, which was called Iethra of Iezrael, who went in to Abigail the daughter of Naas, the fifter of Saruia which was the mother of Ioab. ²⁶ And Ifrael camped with Abfalom in the Land of Galaad. ²⁷ And when Daudid was come into the Campe, Sobi the fonne of Naas of Rabbath the fonnes of Ammon, and Machir the fonne of Amihel of Lodabar, & Berzellai the Galaa-
 dite of Rogelim, ²⁸ presented vnto him hanginges, and tapeftrie, and earthen veffels, wheate, and barley, and meale, and polent, and beanes, and rife, and fryed peafe, ²⁹ and honie, and butter, sheepe, & fatte calues, and they gaue to Daudid and the people, that was with him, to eate: for they fufpected that the people with hunger and thyrft was faynte in the defert.

^a Bad counfail often falleth worft to the counfeller.