

# TUESDAY NIGHT

at the  
Crescent

## "AHITHOPHEL"

### A study of the fact that no man is an island to himself.

(2 Samuel 15: 12; 31-37; 16: 15-23; 17:1-14: 23)

**TUESDAY 30th MAY, 1989**

1. We reap what we sow, forgiveness notwithstanding. The paid of the reaping eclipses the pleasure of the sowing. The suffering you'll endure in the whirlwind is much greater than the pleasure of sowing the wind (Hosea 8:7; Romans 6:21; Galatians 6:7-8; Proverbs 6: 27-29)
2. The whirlwind David reaped: (a) Civil war (2 Samuel 12: 10-11) (b) Bathsheba's baby dies (2 Samuel 12: 15-19) (c) Brother disgraces sister (2 Samuel 13: 1-18) (d) Brother hates brother (2 Samuel 13: 22) (e) Absalom murders Ammon, runs from home and then leads a conspiracy (2 Samuel 13: 23-39).
3. The treachery of Ahithophel (2 Samuel 15-17):
  - (a) He was David's most trusted privy-councillor (2 Samuel 16:23) (b) Why did Ahithophel desert David and join Absalom's conspiracy? The reason given is the genealogical tables which show that Ahithophel was the grandfather of Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11: 3; 2 Samuel 23: 4) We take it that his son Eliam was a comrade and friend of Uriah as they are both in the list of David's thirty-seven mighty men (2 Samuel 23) (c) Revenge was surely in Ahithophel's heart when he counselled Absalom to bring the ultimate humiliation on David (2 Samuel 16: 21).
4. The suicide of Ahithophel was influenced by David's original sin. There is no sadder moment in all David's life than when his most trusted councillor hanged himself. (2 Samuel 17: 23)
5. Riding out the storm. David's experience and example:
  - (a) Acknowledgement of the sowing (2 Samuel 12: 13)
  - (b) Response during the reaping:
    - (i) He prayed (2 Samuel 12: 15-17); 15:31)
    - (ii) He faced the consequences realistically (2 Samuel 12: 19-20)
    - (iii) He claimed God's truths (2 Samuel 12: 20-23)
    - (iv) He found that when times were tough the Lord was his only security, light, strength and hope (2 Samuel 22: 2-51)
6. A friend in need is a friend indeed; the people who stood near.
  - (a) Ittai (2 Samuel 15: 19-21) (b) Zadok and Abiathar (2 Samuel 15: 24, 29) (c) Hushai (2 Samuel 15: 32-36) (d) Shobi, Machir and Barzillai (2 Samuel 17: 27-29) (e) Joab (2 Samuel 19: 4-9).

*"Never think to find honey in the pot when God writes poison on its cover".*

(William Gurnall)

