

your servant.”

Absalom wanted to make sure that his father couldn't conquer his kingdom again, so he asked for advice from Ahithophel. Ahithophel told him, “I would choose 12,000 men and set out tonight in pursuit of David. I would attack him while he is weary and weak.”

Absalom also asked Hushai what he should do. Hushai knew that Ahithophel's advice would bring bad results for David, and that David and his men needed time to rest and plan their next move. Hushai told Absalom that he should wait until he could get together more men for his army.

So, Absalom and all of Israel said, “The advice of Hushai the Arkite is better than that of Ahithophel.”

When Absalom's army finally set out to fight David, David and his men were rested and ready for battle. “King David commanded Joab, Abishai and Ittai, ‘Be gentle with the young man

Absalom for my sake.’” David's army marched out of the city to fight Israel, the battle took place in the forest of Ephraim.

Now Absalom happened to meet David's men. He was riding his mule, and as the mule went under the thick branches of a large oak, Absalom's hair got caught in the tree. He was left hanging in midair, while the mule he was riding kept on going.

When one of the men saw what had happened, he told Joab, “I just saw Absalom hanging in an oak tree.”

Then Joab, David's commander, took three javelins in his hand and plunged them into Absalom's heart while Absalom was still alive in the oak tree. When David heard of his son's death he wept and said, “O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom!” David returned to his throne in Jerusalem very saddened.

(This Bible Story is found in 2 Samuel 15:1-37; 16:15-23; 17:1-14, 18:1-33.)

