

HUSHAI REBUTTS ACHITOFEL'S ADVICE

- By God's providence Absalom decides to seek Hushai's opinion
- Absalom undoubtedly saw *Achitofel's* plan as self-serving and an attempt to become general of the army
- *Hushai* offers a different plan
- *Hushai* says David and his warriors will NOT panic and run, but fight like a bear guarding its cubs

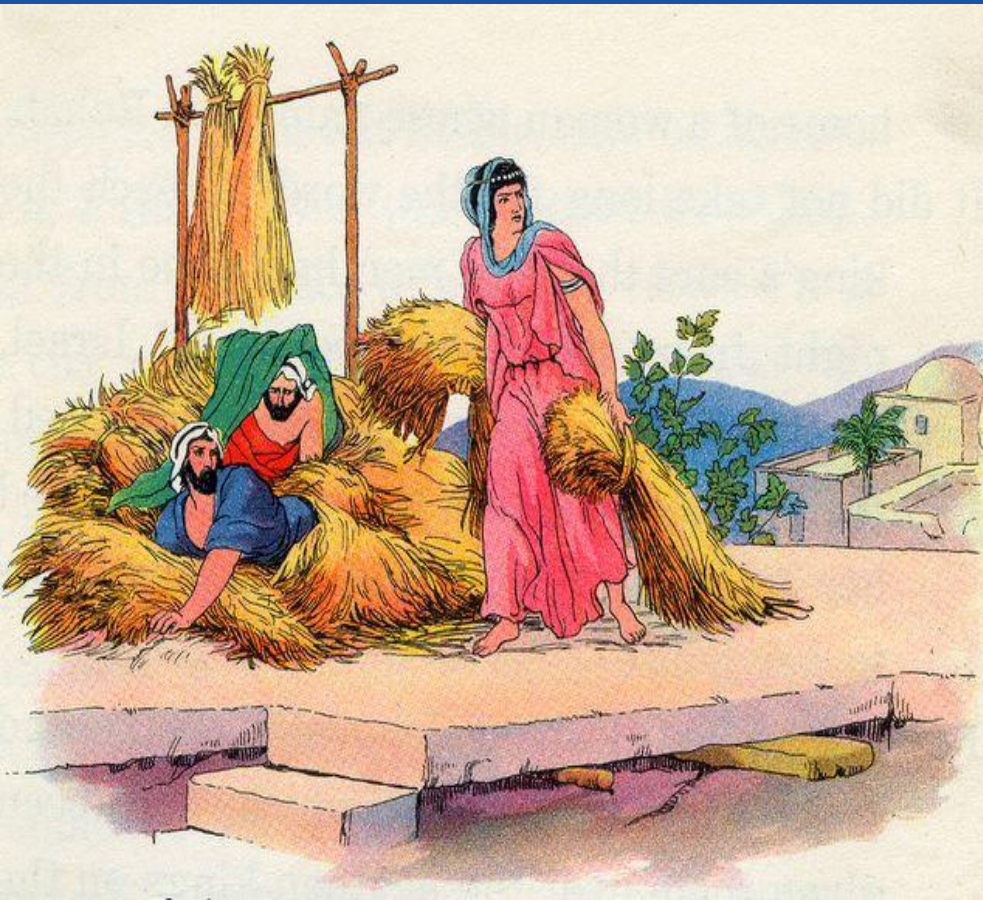


HUSHAI OFFERS A PLAN THAT IS DESIGNED TO FAIL



- *Hushai* explains that *Achitofel's* plan is fatally flawed, and Absalom will look weak
- Better, he says, to assemble a much larger force
- Absalom should lead, not *Achitofel*, so *Avishalom* gets the credit as victor
- But the resultant army will take a long time to assemble and be untrained
- David will have plenty of time to flee and ready a strong defense

TZADOK AND EVYATAR SEND SONS TO WARN DAVID



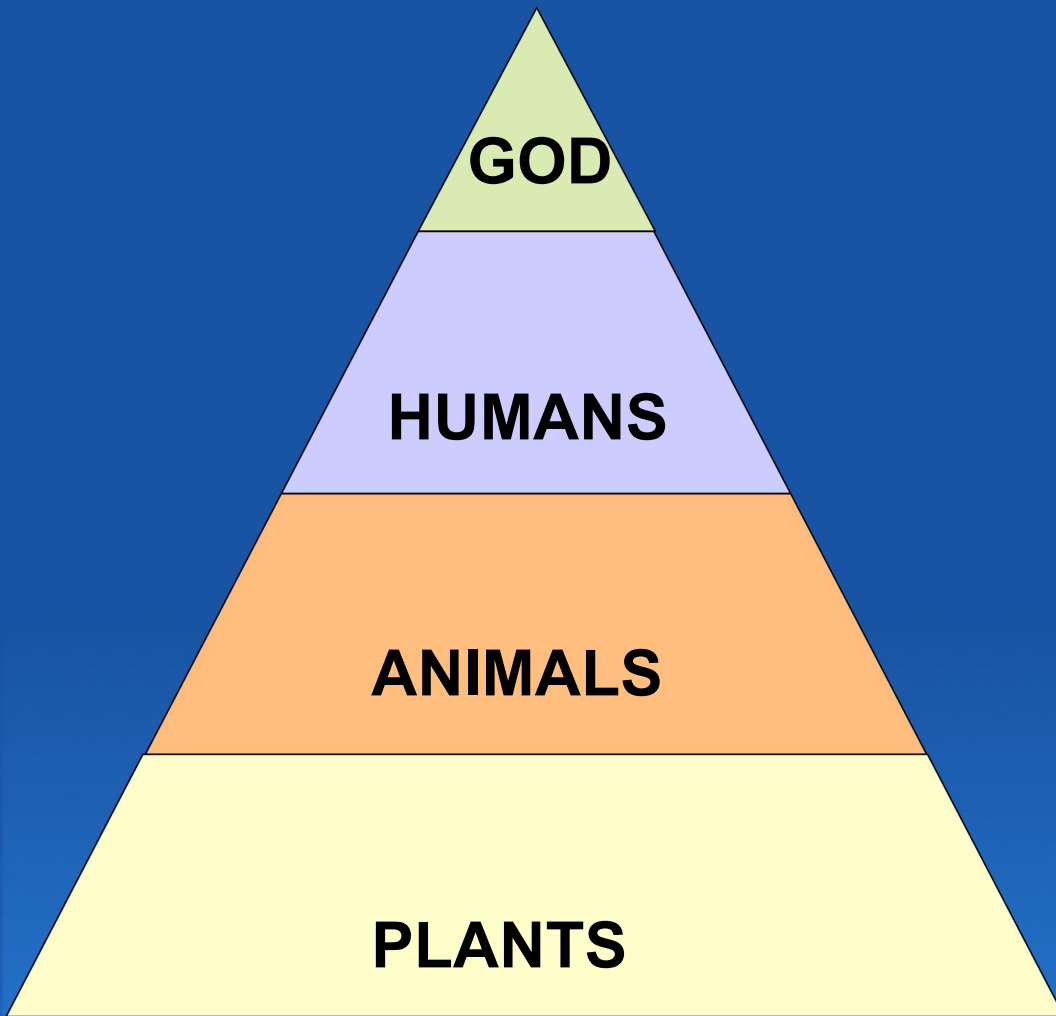
- A boy working for Absalom reports he sees the 2 sons of the High Priests leaving Jerusalem
- Woman in Bachurim hides them in a water cistern and lies to the soldiers
- Reminds us of Rahab in Jericho who hid Joshua's scouts and then lied to the King of Jericho's men

CAN LYING EVER BE A GOOD DEED?

- Does lying for a good cause make the lie become as truth?
- *Kal V'homer* = light vs. heavy
- Standard Christian doctrine: a sin is a sin is a sin.....all sins are equal in God's eyes
- But the Torah teaches that there are lesser sins and greater sins and even unforgivable sins !



GOD'S HIERARCHY OF VALUE



- God's creations are more or less important in God's hierarchy of value
- INNOCENT human life is at the top of created things
- Kal V'homer says at times we must CHOOSE between committing lesser and greater sins !
- To lie to save innocent human life is to commit the lesser sin
- BUT.....a lie NEVER ceases to be sin !

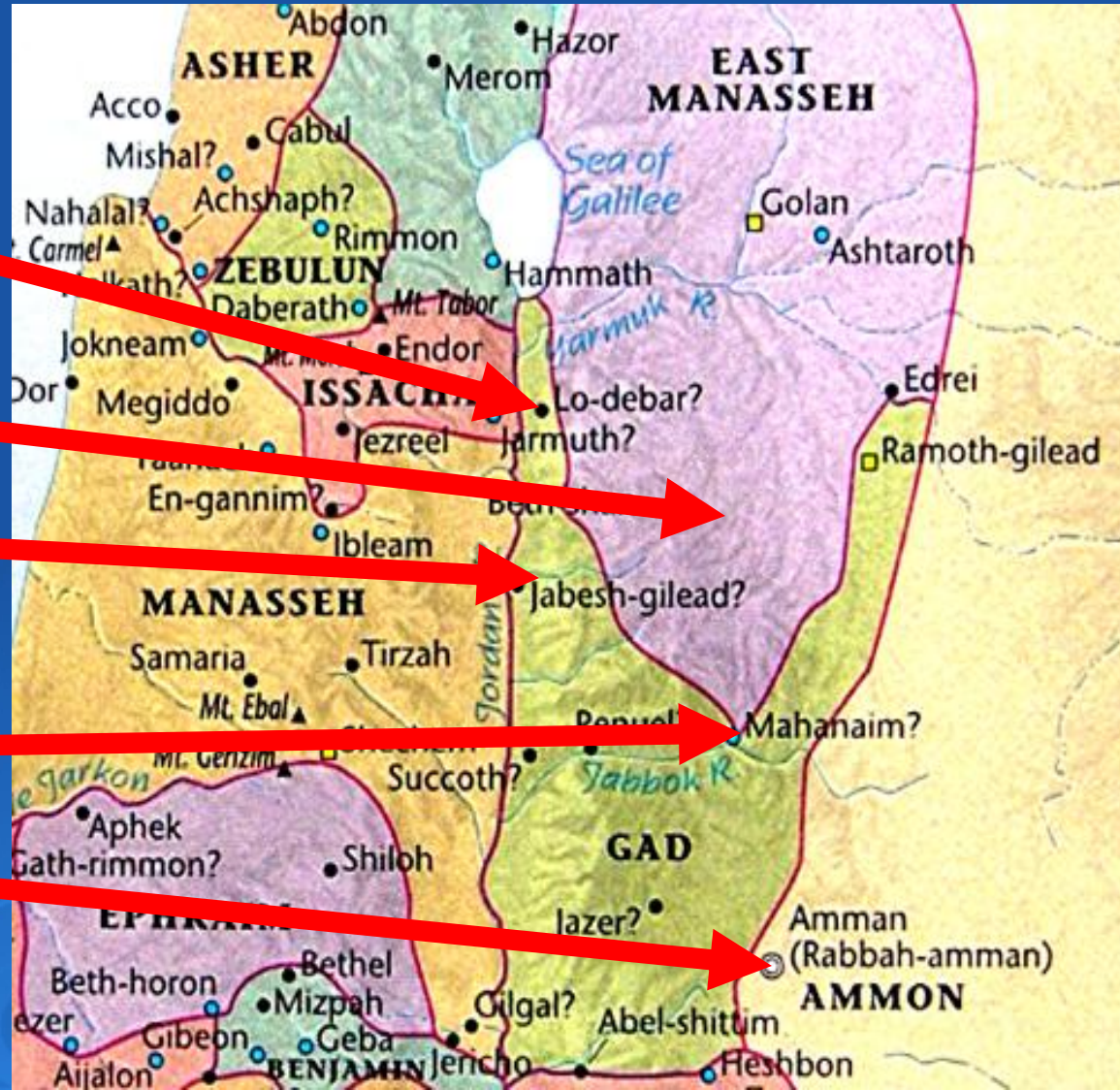
ACHITOPHEL KILLS HIMSELF

- Bitter and vindictive Achitofel kills himself knowing Absalom would fail
- David crosses-over the Jordan and goes to *Machanayim*
- A walled city, a Levitical city of refuge



AMASA BECOMES AVISHALOM'S MILITARY COMMANDER

- *Machir* from Lo-D'var
- *Barzillai* from area of Gilead
- Absalom camps near Jabesh-Gilead
- David in Machanayim
- *Shovi* from Rabbah



2ND SAMUEL 18: REBELLION BECOMES CIVIL WAR

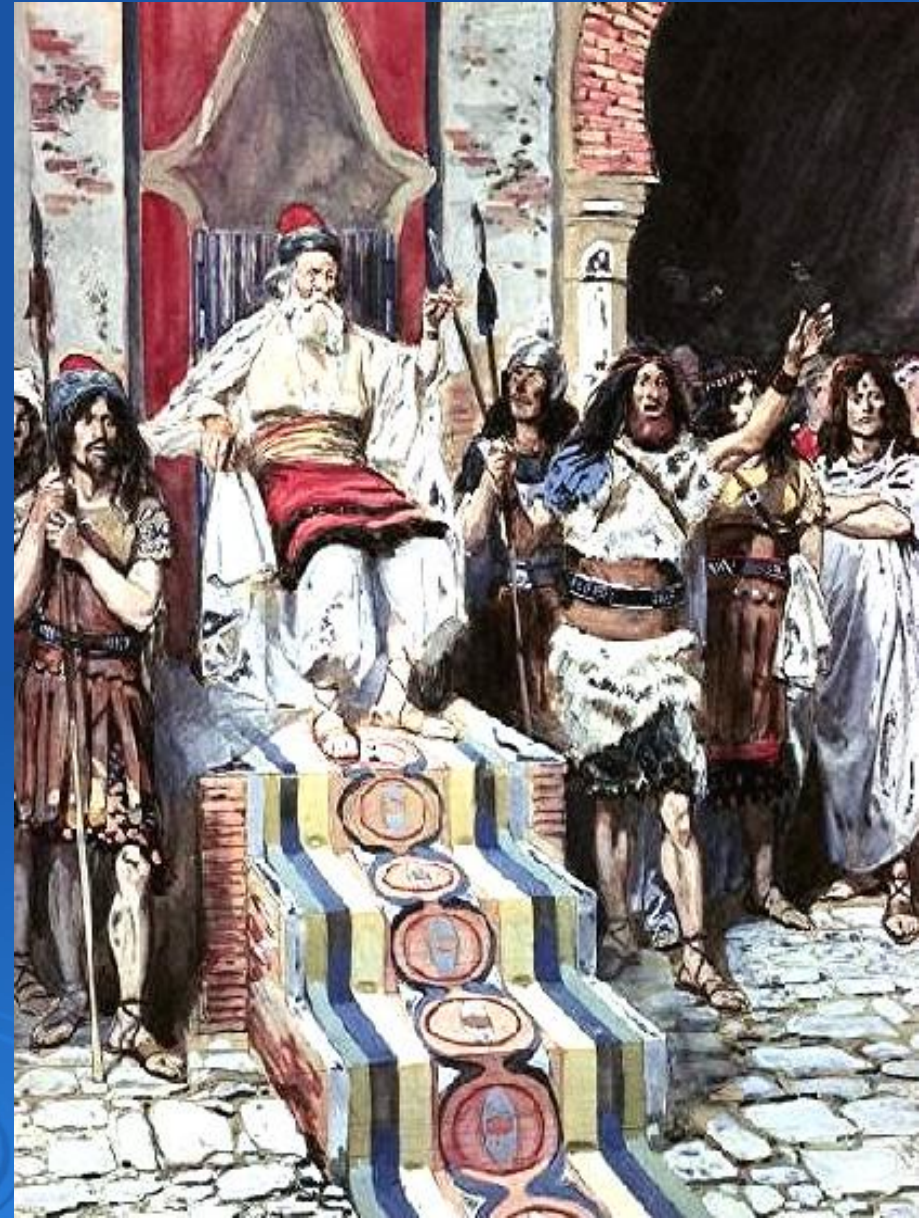


- No longer a contest between 2 politicians vying to sit on the throne of Israel
- Now the country had divided into two factions, each fighting for a cause
- David took a census as standard procedure before a battle
- Absalom had sizeable forces, but undisciplined and untrained
- David had fewer troops but they were experienced, dedicated fighting men



KING DAVID IS LEFT BEHIND

- David says he will lead the battle; his army says NO !
- David is old, 20 years he's been a sedentary monarch
- The key issue for Absalom was that David must die
- David had an ulterior motive for hailing the men as they left for war
- David instructed every soldier NOT to harm Absalom !



THE DIVINELY APPOINTED LEADER NO LONGER HAS THE LUXURY OF PUTTING FAMILY ABOVE EVERYTHING



God 1st +
Family 2nd +
Job 3rd =
True Happiness

- Great Christian saying, but usually the order is reversed !
- David put his family above God, and it was disastrous !
- Our Savior always warned us to count the cost before we commit to Him
- Luke 14:26 -33
- Luke 9:57 - 62