

AHITHOPHEL

Ahithophel, grandfather of Bathsheba, after having been King David's counselor, joined in the rebellion of Absalom, the son of David, and assisted him with his advice.

Hushai, the friend of David, was employed to counteract the counsels of Ahithophel, and to deprive Absalom, under a pretense of serving him, of the advantage that was likely to result from the measures which he proposed.

One of these measures was calculated to render David irreconcilable, and was immediately adopted; and the other to secure, or to slay him. Before the last counsel was followed, Hushai's advice was desired and he recommended their assembling together the whole force of Israel, putting Absalom at their head, and overwhelming David by their number.

The treacherous counsel of Hushai was preferred to that of Ahithophel; with which the latter being disgusted he hastened to his house, where he put an end to his life. He probably foresaw Absalom's defeat, and dreaded the punishment which would be inflicted on himself as a traitor, when David was resettled on the throne.