

II Samuel 15:10 – II Samuel 20:2

This is a classic chiasmic structure where the central axis (element L) is the turning point of the story. Before the central axis everything is going badly for David. Once we pass the central axis everything is looking good for our king.

- A) II Samuel 15:10-12—Absalom *rebelled against the king*; “when you hear the *sound of the shofar*”; Absalom *stole the hearts of the men of Israel*; “there’s *no one before the king to understand you*;
- B) II Samuel 15:13-24—The king’s servants said, “whatever my lord the king decides, *your servants are ready*”; Ittai said, “in whatever place my lord the king will be – *whether for death or life – their your servant will be*; David and his servants *pass through the Kidron valley*;
- C) II Samuel 15:32-37—Hushai *came to meet the king*; the king stated “*you will be a burden to me*”; “you will *defeat Ahithophel’s council* for me; *stay behind*;
- D) II Samuel 16:1-4—Ziba *came to meet the king*; the king *asked a question about Mephibosheth*; the king *gave Mephibosheth’s property to Ziba*;
- E) II Samuel 16:5-13—*David came to Bahurim*; Shimei *came out to meet David*; *Abishai wanted to kill Shimei*; *David forgave Shimei*;
- F) II Samuel 16:15-19—*Hushai won Absalom’s trust*; “Whom shall I serve, is it not *my friend’s son*?”
- G) II Samuel 16:20-23—Ahithophel *advised Absalom how to win the trust of Israel*; consort with *your father’s concubines*; *pitched a tent on the roof for Absalom*;
- H) II Samuel 17:1-14—Ahithophel wanted to *chase after David*; Ahithophel stated “the people will be at *peace*”; Ahithophel really *desired to kill David*; Absalom *chose between sending two people* against David; *Ahithophel*, who suggested that he kill David *was rejected*; Hushai stated “and if he is brought *into a city*”;
- I) II Samuel 17:18-19—Jonathan and Ahimaaz *descend into a well*; a woman *spread a curtain over the well*;
- J) II Samuel 17:23—*Ahithophel’s suicide by hanging*
- K) II Samuel 17:24-25—Absalom *appointed Amasa* over his army in place of Joab; *David’s position in Mahanaim*

- L) *II Samuel 17:27-29—Three men brought David and his servants all sorts of provisions because they were hungry, exhausted and thirsty in the desert*

- K’) II Samuel 18:1-5—David *appointed officers* and divided his camp into thirds; *David’s position near the city gate*
- J’) II Samuel 18:9-15—Absalom *hanging in the elm tree*; David’s servant refusing to accept bribery of silver; *Absalom’s death*;
- I’) II Samuel 18:17—Joab’s men throw *Absalom’s body into a large pit* and erected a *mound of stones over him*;
- H’) II Samuel 18:19-32—Ahimaaz wanted to *run to David*; Ahimaaz called out to the king “*Peace!*”; Ahimaaz really *desired to bring David news*; Joab *chose*

- between sending two people to David; Ahimaaz, who suggested that he carry the message was rejected; David was sitting between the two gates of the city;*
- G') II Samuel 19:6-11—Joab *advised David how to win the trust of his servants;*
“save the lives of your concubines”; David sat at the city gate;
- F') II Samuel 19:12-15—*David won the hearts of the men of Judah; “You are bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh”;*
- E') II Samuel 19:16-24—*Shimei was from Bahurim; he hastened to meet the king; Abishai wanted to kill Shimei; Shimei begged David for forgiveness;*
- D') II Samuel 19:25-31—Mephibosheth *came to meet the king; the king asked Mephibosheth a question; Mephibosheth and Ziba must divide the property;*
- C') II Samuel 19:32-39—Barzillai *came to meet the king; “I will be a burden to you”;*
Barzillai states that he has no discernment; Let me *stay back;*
- B') II Samuel 19:40-44—The men of Israel and Judah argue over who is *more loyal to the king; David and his servants pass over the Jordan;*
- A') II Samuel 20:1-2—*Sheba rebelled against the king; he sounded the shofars; the men of Israel followed Sheba; “we have no part in David”;*