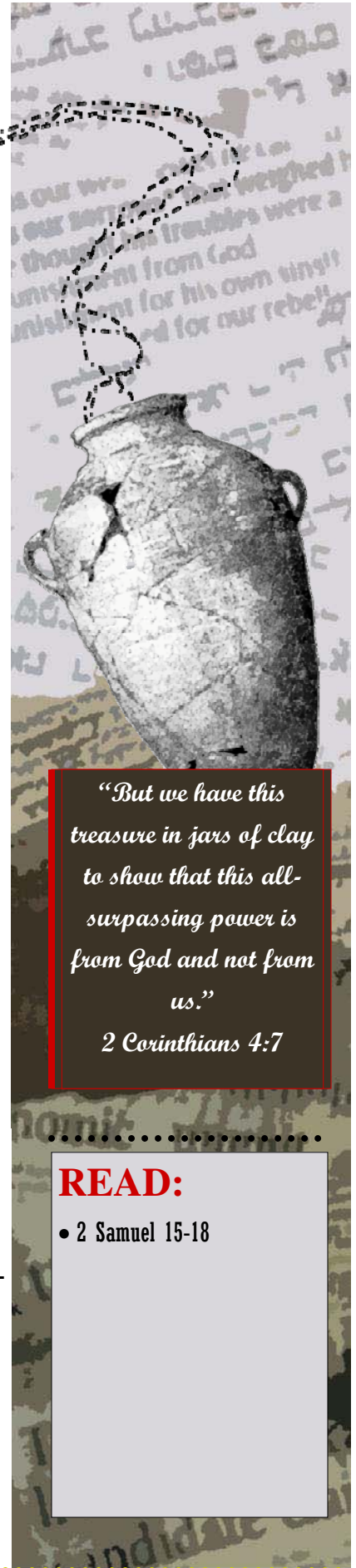


TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY



Hushai

An “agent of influence” is someone whose political actions and position are used to benefit a foreign nation. In a CIA publication, Hushai is referred to as the first influence agent operation on record. (*“The Tale of Hushai the Archite”*)

What was Hushai’s original intention when he met with David after he had fled Absalom’s coup? (2 Sam. 15:32-37) _____

Why did David say that he would be a burden if he came with him? _____

What did David ask him to do instead? _____

What were the results? _____

According to 2 Samuel 17:14, who ensured Hushai’s success? _____

In what ways might we be considered agents of influence? _____

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”
2 Corinthians 4:7

Who were the Archites (Arkites)?

Apparently, these were the people settled in a site that is eighty miles north of Sidon (see map). Arkantu is mentioned by an Egyptian ruler in the 15th century BC, and the Armana Letters mention an Irkata that was captured by Assyria in 738 BC. (Ungers 103)

What clues about their identity do we get from these passages?

Genesis 10:17 _____

Joshua 16:2 _____

1 Chronicles 1 :15 _____

READ:

- 2 Samuel 15-18

Friends

David is a name known above almost all other names in Scripture. He was the giant killer. He was a man after God's own heart. It was of his lineage that the Messiah was to come. But another thing that stands out about David is that he had friends, good friends. From Jonathan's selfless devotion, to his mighty men who would risk their life to get their friend David a drink of water, David had friends who stood by him in even the worst of times. One of those loyal friends was Hushai the Arkite.

One particular verse always stands out to me when I think of Hushai. It is one of those little treasures that one unexpectedly finds in the midst of the informative lists recorded in 1 Chronicles.

In first Chronicles 27:25, who was in charge of King David's royal storehouses?

What was the duty of Joash according to verse 28? _____

Who took care of the camels in verse 30? _____

In verse 33, what did Ahithophel do? _____

And in the same verse, what was the role of Hushai the Arkite? _____

How important was that position to the success of David's kingdom? _____

What weight did Ahithophel's words carry according to 2 Samuel 16:23?

Who did David put his trust in at this point in time? _____

Why? _____

What risk was David taking? _____

What risk was Hushai taking? _____

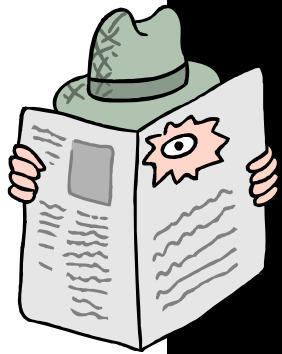
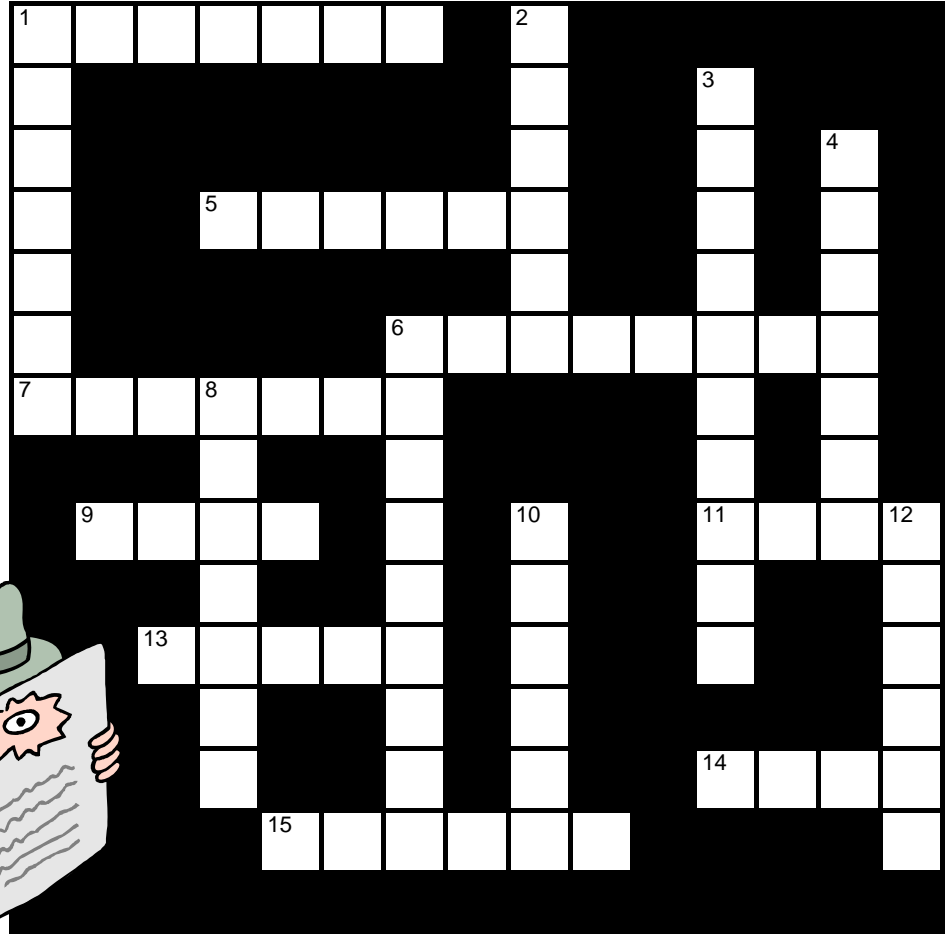
In what way is friendship essential? _____

In what ways is it risky? _____

How is Proverbs 18:24 especially appropriate to this story?



PUZZLE PAGE



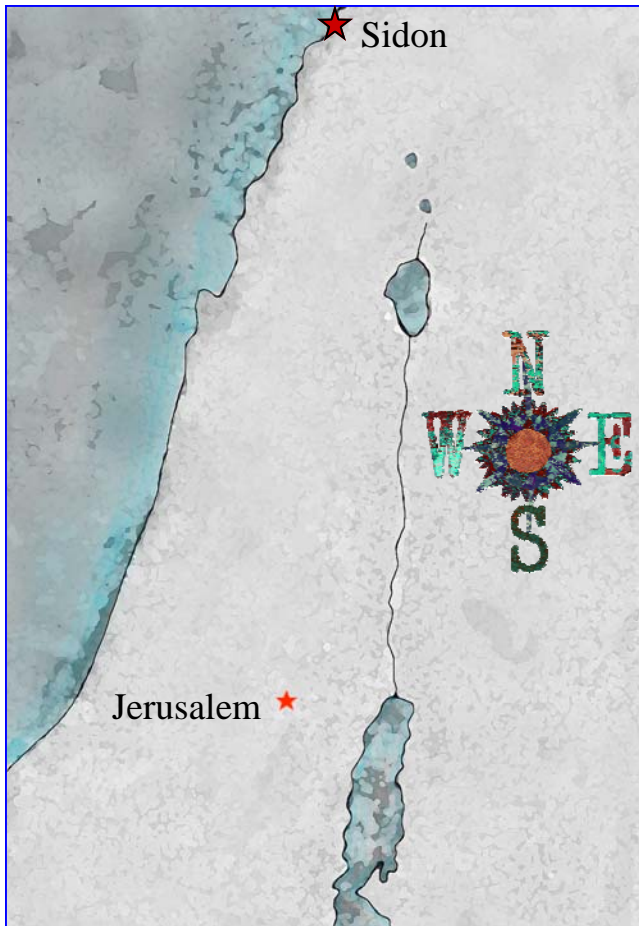
Clues

Across

- 1 a messenger (7)
- 5 he was David's (6)
- 6 hid in a well (8)
- 7 he sent one to David (7)
- 9 caused Absalom to follow his advice (4)
- 11 Ahithophel did this to himself (4)
- 13 his son 1 Kings 4:16 (5)
- 14 he tore this (4)
- 15 met David here (6)

Down

- 1 pretended to be loyal to him (7)
- 2 what David said he would be if he remained with him (6)
- 3 thwarted his advice to the king (10)
- 4 Absalom asked for his (7)
- 6 he returned to this city (9)
- 8 remained David's (7)
- 10 an Arkite (6)
- 12 he advised Absalom to wait and _____ forces (6)



Puzzle answers:



For more studies, go to:



Down Victory Road
www.downvictoryrd.com

Sources:

Geschwind, C.N. "The Tale of Hushai the Archite." *Central Intelligence Agency* (1996): n. pag. Web. 2 Nov 2010. <https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/kent-csi/vol13no2/html/v13i2a04p_0001.htm>.

Unger, Merrill F., and R.K. Harrison. "Arkite." *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*. Rev. ed. Moody Bible Institute, 1988. Print.

Unger, Merrill F., and R.K. Harrison. "Hushai." *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*. Rev. ed. Moody Bible Institute, 1988. Print.

"The sin of self protection... occurs when our legitimate thirst for receiving love creates a demand to not be hurt that overrides a commitment to lovingly involve ourself with others. When that demand for self protection interferes with our willingness to move toward others with their wellbeing in view, then the law of love is violated..."
 Larry Crabb in *Inside Out*