

MINORITY ON THE THRESHOLD

¹⁶ *“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”*

II Kings 6:16

³⁰ *Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”* ³¹ *But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”*

Numbers 13:30-31

⁶ *Absalom behaved in this way toward all the Israelites who came to the king asking for justice, and so he stole the hearts of the people of Israel.*

II Samuel 15:6

I. Majority rules? / The Melchizedek factor

(Outsiders often embody God’s best will for his servants.)

A. Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20)

B. Rahab (Joshua 2:1,3; 6:17-25; Mathew 1:5; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25)

C. Ruth

D. Naaman the Syrian (II Kings 5:1-15)

E. The centurion (Matthew 8:5-13)

F. The good Samaritan (Luke 10:5-37)

G. Syro-Phoenician woman (Mark 7:25-30; Matthew 15:21-28)

- H. The women of Samaria (John 4:4-35.)
 - I. The man who followed not the apostles (Mark 9:38-41)
 - J. The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)
 - K. Cornelius (Acts 10:1-11:18)
 - L. Obed-Edom and the Ark of the Covenant
(II Samuel 6:10-11)
- II. When the sin of the majority surfaces God's minority /
Seven sheltering trees
- A. The first trees of shelter / The Kerithites and the Pelethites
(II Samuel 15:18)
 - B. Second tree of shelter / Ittai the Gittite / Once an enemy,
now a friend. (II Samuel 15:21)
 - * Ittai the Gittite [An anointed outsider]
 1. Ittai the Gittite is a Philistine from Goliath's home city
of Gath.
 2. David's "with-me-ness" transcends national, racial,
religious, and historical boundaries.
 3. He shares neither race, tribe, nor family name with
David. Yet he is one of the greatest friends of David's
life.
 - C. The third tree of shelter / Hushai the Archite / Frustrator of
the council of Ahithophel (II Samuel 15:32,34)
 - D. The fourth tree of shelter / Shobi the Ammonite /
Son of Nahash
 - E. The fifth tree of shelter / Machir, Son of Ammiel from Lo-
debar / Protector of the needy (II Samuel 17:27-29)

F. The sixth tree of shelter / Barzillai the Gileadite / A faithful to the end friend