

# GALLIMAUFREY PORTRAITS IV

## *BARZILLAI*

*<sup>27</sup> And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim, <sup>28</sup> Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched corn, and beans, and lentiles, and parched pulse, <sup>29</sup> And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat: for they said, The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.*

II Samuel 17:27-29

*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.*

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

### I. Barzillai – God’s iron man

- A. Barzillai was an aged, venerable, hospitable, Highland chief.
- B. Alexander Whyte marks Barzillai’s characteristics as loyalty, courtesy, and hospitality. He also had great pity for the fallen.

### II. Three lessons from Barzillai

- A. Hospitality has no expiration date.
- B. We need to meet physical needs before we meet spiritual needs. (I John 3:17)

*<sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?*

C. We need to be future-minded.

### III. Barzillai's excuses (II Samuel 19:31-39)

*<sup>31</sup> Barzillai the Gileadite also came down from Rogelim to cross the Jordan with the king and to send him on his way from there. <sup>32</sup> Now Barzillai was very old, eighty years of age. He had provided for the king during his stay in Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man. <sup>33</sup> The king said to Barzillai, "Cross over with me and stay with me in Jerusalem, and I will provide for you." <sup>34</sup> But Barzillai answered the king, "How many more years will I live, that I should go up to Jerusalem with the king? <sup>35</sup> I am now eighty years old. Can I tell the difference between what is enjoyable and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats and drinks? Can I still hear the voices of male and female singers? Why should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king? <sup>36</sup> Your servant will cross over the Jordan with the king for a short distance, but why should the king reward me in this way? <sup>37</sup> Let your servant return, that I may die in my own town near the tomb of my father and mother. But here is your servant Kimham. Let him cross over with my lord the king. Do for him whatever you wish." <sup>38</sup> The king said, "Kimham shall cross over with me, and I will do for him whatever you wish. And anything you desire from me I will do for you." <sup>39</sup> So all the people crossed the Jordan, and then the king crossed over. The king kissed Barzillai and bid him farewell, and Barzillai returned to his home.*

- A. I'm too old.
- B. It's too much.
- C. I'm too weak.

#### IV. Barzillai's legacy

A. Barzillai gave his legacy to his son Chimham (longing).  
We need to be champions of the next generation.

B. We need to leave a good multi-generational memory /  
David's deathbed command (I Kings 2:7)

*<sup>7</sup> "But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.*

C. If King David wished to bestow a favor in Barzillai's behalf, then it should rest on Chimham, apparently one of Barzillai's relatives. Accordingly, David decreed that Chimham will cross over with him, and that he would receive all the benefits that would have been accorded Barzillai. Evidence in a later text [Jer. 41:17] indicates that David fulfilled his word. The existence of a site near Bethlehem named Geruth Chimham (= "the hospitality of/accorded to Chimham") suggests that an estate in Judah was given to Barzillai's designated recipient.