

2 Samuel 17:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So shall we come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will light upon him as the dew falleth on the ground: and of him and of all the men that are with him there shall not be left so much as one.

Analysis

So shall we come upon him in some place where he shall be found, and we will light upon him as the dew falleth on the ground: and of him and of all the men that are with him there shall not be left so much as one.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Competing Counsel, emphasizing divine providence over human wisdom. The contrast between Ahithophel's shrewd counsel and Hushai's divinely-blessed alternative demonstrates God's providential control over human wisdom. The text explicitly states "the LORD had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel" (v. 14), emphasizing divine sovereignty. Ahithophel's suicide demonstrates despair when human wisdom fails. Theological themes include God's sovereignty over human planning, divine protection of His anointed, and the inadequacy of worldly wisdom apart from God.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 17 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding divine providence over human wisdom provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—

Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of divine providence over human wisdom?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

נִמְצֵא אֲשֶׁר בַּמְקוּם	אֲשֶׁר בַּמְקוּם	אֲשֶׁר בַּמְקוּם	אֲשֶׁר בַּמְקוּם	אֲשֶׁר בַּמְקוּם	אֲשֶׁר בַּמְקוּם
So shall we come	H413	one	place	H834	where he shall be found
H935		H259	H4725		H4672
עַל יְמֵינָךְ נִפְלֵא שֶׁ	עַל יְמֵינָךְ נִפְלֵא שֶׁ	עַל יְמֵינָךְ נִפְלֵא שֶׁ	עַל יְמֵינָךְ נִפְלֵא שֶׁ	עַל יְמֵינָךְ נִפְלֵא שֶׁ	עַל יְמֵינָךְ נִפְלֵא שֶׁ
H8033	H5117	H5921	H834	falleth	upon him as the dew
				H5307	H2919
וְכֹל בָּנָיו	וְכֹל בָּנָיו	וְכֹל בָּנָיו	וְכֹל בָּנָיו	וְכֹל בָּנָיו	וְכֹל בָּנָיו
on the ground	H3808	that are with him there shall not be left		H0	H3605
H127		H3498			
בְּאֶנְשָׁוּם	בְּאֶנְשָׁוּם	בְּאֶנְשָׁוּם	בְּאֶנְשָׁוּם	בְּאֶנְשָׁוּם	בְּאֶנְשָׁוּם
and of him and of all the men	H582	and of him and of all the men	H834	so much as	one
			H854	H1571	H259

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