

2 Samuel 17:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover, if he be gotten into a city, then shall all Israel bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there be not one small stone found there.

Analysis

Moreover, if he be gotten into a city, then shall all Israel bring ropes to that city, and we will draw it into the river, until there be not one small stone found there.

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 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וְשָׁבָא לְ	כָּל	וְהַשְׁׁיוֹא	יָאָסֶר	בְּעֵיר	אֶל	וְאֶם
Moreover if	H413	into a city	he be gotten	bring	H3605	then shall all Israel
	H518		H5892	H622	H5375	H3478
אֶל	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	יָמִים	בְּנֵי יִרְאָה	בְּנֵי יִרְאָה	עַד
H413	into a city	H1931	ropes	and we will draw	H853	H5704
	H5892		H2256	H5498		
בְּרֵבֶל	לֹא	אֲשֶׁר	עַד	לֹא	נִמְצָא	שָׁם
it into the river	H5704	H834	H3808	found	H8033	until there be not one
	H5158			H4672		H1571

צְרוּ:

small stone

H6872

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 24:2 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

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