

2 Samuel 17:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Hushai unto Zadok and to Abiathar the priests,
Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders
of Israel; and thus and thus have I counselled.

Analysis

Then said Hushai unto Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, Thus and thus did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel; and thus and thus have I counselled.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

הַכֹּהֲנִים אֲבִיָּתָר וְאַלְצָד וְאֶל חוּשֵׁי יוֹי אָמַר
Then said Hushai H413 unto Zadok H413 and to Abiathar H54 the priests H3548

אֶחֱיֹת פֶּל וְכֹז אֶת וְכֹז אֶת יַעַצְתִּי
and thus and thus have I counselled H3289 Thus and thus did Ahithophel H302

וְכֹז אֶת וְכֹז אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל זִקְנֵי יִאֵת אַבְשָׁלֹם אֶת
H853 Absalom H53 H853 and the elders H2205 of Israel H3478 H2063 H2063

אֶנִּי יַעַצְתִּי
and thus and thus have I counselled H589 H3289