

2 Samuel 17:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known.

Analysis

And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground corn thereon; and the thing was not known.

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

וְיָצַק חַדְשָׁה בְּאַשׁ הַנְּסָעָה אֶת וַתְּפַרֵּשׁ שְׁלָמִים עַל פָּנֶיךָ
took And the woman and spread a covering over your mouth

וְיָצַק חַדְשָׁה בְּאַשׁ הַנְּסָעָה אֶת וַתְּפַרֵּשׁ שְׁלָמִים עַל אֶת קָרְבָּן וְתַשְׁפַּט כִּי בָּאָרֶץ נָזַק עַ
over the well's and spread ground corn was not known

דְּבָרִים
thereon and the thing

H1697

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 1:19 (Parallel theme): And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org