

# 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

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**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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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|                              |                    |                   |                        |              |           |            |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| כָּטַף י                     | עַל                | הַמָּסָךְ         | אֶת                    | וַתִּפֹּרֶשׁ | הָאִשָּׁה | וַתִּקֶּחַ |
| <b>mouth</b>                 | <b>a covering</b>  | <b>and spread</b> | <b>And the woman</b>   | <b>took</b>  |           |            |
| H6440                        | H5921              | H4539             | H853                   | H6566        | H802      | H3947      |
| וְלֹא                        | הָרַפּוֹת          | עַל יוֹ           | וַתִּשָּׂרֹחַ          | הַבְּאֵר     | נֹדַע     |            |
| <b>was not known</b>         | <b>ground corn</b> | <b>and spread</b> | <b>over the well's</b> |              |           |            |
| H3808                        | H7383              | H5921             | H7849                  | H875         |           |            |
| וְדָבָר:                     |                    |                   |                        |              |           |            |
| <b>thereon and the thing</b> |                    |                   |                        |              |           |            |
| H1697                        |                    |                   |                        |              |           |            |

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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