

2 Samuel 17:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom passed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

Analysis

Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom passed over Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

ברד	את	עבר	אבשלום	מחתה	ב א	אידי ד
Then David	came	to Mahanaim	And Absalom	passed over	H853	Jordan
H1732	H935	H4266	H53	H5674		H3383

וְאֵל הַזֶּה	עָמָל	לִשְׁרָאֵל	עָמָל	וְאֵל הַזֶּה
H1931	H3605	he and all the men	of Israel	H5973

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 32:2 (Parallel theme): And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God's host; and he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

2 Samuel 2:8 (Parallel theme): But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim;

Joshua 13:26 (Parallel theme): And from Heshbon unto Ramath-mizpeh, and Betonim; and from Mahanaim unto the border of Debir;