

2 Samuel 17:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Absalom made Amasa captain of the host instead of Joab: which Amasa was a man's son, whose name was Ithra an Israelite, that went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruiah Joab's mother.

Analysis

And Absalom made Amasa captain of the host instead of Joab: which Amasa was a man's son, whose name was Ithra an Israelite, that went in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister to Zeruiah Joab's mother.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of 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

וְאֵת	וַעֲמָשָׁא	א	שׁ	וְ	אֲבִשָׁל	וְ	חַת	תְּ	יֹאבִבִּי	עַל	הַצֶּבֶא	א
H853	Amasa		made		And Absalom		H8478		Joab's	H5921	captain of the host	
	H6021		H7760		H53				H3097		H6635	
אֲשֶׁר	הַיִּשְׂרָאֵלִי	י	יִתְּךָ	א	וְשֵׁמוֹ	אִישׁ	בֶּן	וַעֲמָשָׁא	א			
			was Ithra		whose name	was a man's	son	Amasa				
			H3501		H8034	H376	H1121	H6021				
צְרוּיָהּ	ה	אָח	וְ	שׁ	בֵּת	אֲבִיגַיִל	ל	אֶל	בָּא			
		sister		of Nahash	the daughter	to Abigail			that went in			
		H269		H5176	H1323	H26	H413		H935			
יֹאבִבִּי	אִמָּה	וְ										
	Joab's								mother			
	H3097								H517			

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 2:13 (Parallel theme): And Jesse begat his firstborn Eliab, and Abinadab the second, and Shimma the third,

2 Samuel 19:13 (Parallel theme): And say ye to Amasa, Art thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab.

1 Kings 2:5 (References Israel): Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet.

1 Kings 2:32 (References Israel): And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing thereof, to wit, Abner the son of Ner, captain of the host of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah.

2 Samuel 20:4 (Parallel theme): Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and be thou here present.

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