

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

הַצָּבָא	עַל	יוֹאָבָה	תִּחְתַּחְתָּ	אֶבְשָׁלָם	שָׁם	יָעַמֵּשׁ	אֵת	וְאַתָּה
H853	Amasa	made	And	Absalom	H8478	Joab's	H5921	captain of the host
H6021	H6021	H7760		H53		H3097		H6635
אֲשֶׁר	הַשְׂרָאֵל	יְהֹתָר	אָשֶׁר	וְשָׁמוֹן	אִישׁ	בֶּן	יָעַמֵּשׁ	אֵת
Amasa	son	was a man's	whose name	was Ithra	an Israelite			
H6021	H1121	H376		H3501	H3481			
בָּאֵל	אֶל	אֶבְיָגִל	בָּת	בָּתְנָשׁ	נָשָׁה	וְתַתָּה	אֶרְרַיָּה	הַזְּרַעִיאָה
that went in	H413	to Abigail	the daughter	of Nahash	H5176	sister	to Zeruiah	
H935	H26	H1323				H269		H6870
וְאַבָּה								
mother	Joab's							
H517	H3097							

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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