

2 Samuel 17:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat: for they said, The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

Analysis

And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that were with him, to eat: for they said, The people is hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

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 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

וְדָבַשׁ	וְחֶמֶץ הַ	וְצֹאן	וְשֶׁפֶת וְתֵ	בְּקֶרֶן	הַגִּישׁוֹ	לְדָוִד
And honey	and butter	and sheep	and cheese	of kine	H5066	for David
H1706	H2529	H6629	H8194	H1241		H1732
הָעָם	אֲשֶׁר	אֵת וְ	לֶאֱכֹל	כִּי	אָמְרוּ	
The people	H834	H854	that were with him to eat	H3588	for they said	
H5971			H398		H559	
הָעָם	רָעָב	וְעֵיָף	וְצִמָּה	בַּמִּדְבָּר:		
The people	is hungry	and weary	and thirsty	in the wilderness		
H5971	H7457	H5889	H6771	H4057		

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 16:2 (Parallel theme): And the king said unto Ziba, What meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, The asses be for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.

2 Samuel 16:14 (Parallel theme): And the king, and all the people that were with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.

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