

2 Samuel 17:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seekest is as if all returned: so all the people shall be in peace.

Analysis

And I will bring back all the people unto thee: the man whom thou seekest is as if all returned: so all the people shall be in peace.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| וּבְכֹשׁ | כָּל | הָעָם | אֶל יְיָ | וּבְכֹשׁ | הַכֹּל |
| And I will bring back | H3605 | all the people | H413 | And I will bring back | H3605 |
| H7725 | | H5971 | | H7725 | |
| הָאִישׁ | אֶתְּ | אֲשֶׁר | מְבַקֵּשׁ | כָּל | הָעָם |
| unto thee the man | H834 | H859 | whom thou seekest | H3605 | all the people |
| H376 | | | H1245 | | H5971 |
| יְהִי הַ | שְׁלוֹמִים: | | | | |
| H1961 | shall be in peace | | | | |
| | H7965 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 5:3 (Peace): For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

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