

2 Samuel 17:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Hushai was come to Absalom, Absalom spake unto him, saying, Ahithophel hath spoken after this manner: shall we do after his saying? if not; speak thou.

Analysis

And when Hushai was come to Absalom, Absalom spake unto him, saying, Ahithophel hath spoken after this manner: shall we do after his saying? if not; speak thou.

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form 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

וַיָּבֹא	וְחִוְשֵׁי	וְאֶל	לְאַמְרָה	אֶבְשָׁל	וְמִ	אֵל
was come	And when Hushai	H413	Absalom	spake	Absalom	H413
H935	H2365		H53	H559	H53	
לְאַמְרָה	דִּבֶּר וְ	פֶּה	דִּבְּרָה	אַחִיתְּפֵל	הַנְּעָשֵׁה	אַתָּה
spake	after his saying	H2088	hath spoken	Ahithophel	shall we do	H853
H559	H1697		H1696	H302	H6213	
דִּבְּרָה	אַתָּה אַנְתָּם	אַתָּה אַנְתָּם	דִּבְּרָה:	hath spoken		
after his saying	H518	H369	H859	H1696		