

2 Samuel 17:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Hushai said unto Absalom, The counsel that Ahithophel hath given is not good at this time.

Analysis

And Hushai said unto Absalom, The counsel that Ahithophel hath given is not good at this time.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

אָשֶׁר	פָּעַל	הַזֹּאת:	בָּעֵם	אֲחִיתָ פֶּלֶל	זֶעֶם	וְאֶל	חוֹשֵׁן	וְיֵאמֶר
said	And Hushai	H413	unto Absalom	H3808	is not good	The counsel		H834
H559	H2365		H53		H2896		H6098	
הָזֶה	אֲחִיתָ פֶּלֶל	זֶעֶם	בָּעֵם	אֲחִיתָ פֶּלֶל	זֶעֶם	וְאֶל	חוֹשֵׁן	וְיֵאמֶר
hath given	that Ahithophel		at this time	H2063				
H3289	H302		H6471					

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