

# 2 Samuel 17:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For, said Hushai, thou knowest thy father and his men, that they be mighty men, and they be chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father is a man of war, and will not lodge with the people.

## Analysis

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**For, said Hushai, thou knowest thy father and his men, that they be mighty men, and they be chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father is a man of war, and will not lodge with the people.**

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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

אָתָּה יְהוָה צְדָקָתְךָ אָמַר	For said	חֻשָּׁי	Hushai	H859	תִּדְעַת	thou knowest	H3045	אָתָּה יְהוָה צְדָקָתְךָ אָמַר	is a man	H376
H559		H2365						H1		H376
בְּכָה		גָּבָר יִם		H1992	בְּמִתְּהָה			וּמְרִיבָה	בְּפָשָׁע	בְּמִתְּהָה
H3588	that they be mighty men	H1368			and they be chafed	H4751		in their minds	H5315	H1992
כַּד בְּ		בְּשִׁיד הַ			שָׁפֵךְ וְלִ			מְלֹתָם הַ	אִישׁ	אִישׁ
as a bear	robbed	of her whelps in the field	H7704		and thy father	H1		וְאִבֵּרְךָ	וְאִבֵּרְךָ	וְאִבֵּרְךָ
H1677	H7909							H376		H4421
לֹא		לֹא		H854	בְּצָמָן					
H3808	and will not lodge	H3885			with the people	H5971				

## Additional Cross-References

**Hosea 13:8** (Parallel theme): I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them.

**1 Samuel 16:18** (Parallel theme): Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Beth-lehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.

**Proverbs 17:12** (Parallel theme): Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.

**Daniel 7:5** (Parallel theme): And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it; and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.