

2 Samuel 20:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was come near unto her, the woman said, Art thou Joab? And he answered, I am he. Then she said unto him, Hear the words of thine handmaid. And he answered, I do hear.

Analysis

And when he was come near unto her, the woman said, Art thou Joab? And he answered, I am he. Then she said unto him, Hear the words of thine handmaid. And he answered, I do hear.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Sheba's Rebellion, emphasizing ongoing challenges to authority. Sheba's rebellion demonstrates that David's troubles continue despite Absalom's defeat. The wise woman's intervention prevents unnecessary bloodshed. Theological themes include ongoing resistance to God's appointed leader, the value of wisdom in crisis resolution, the danger of divisive rhetoric, and God's provision of unexpected solutions through unlikely people.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 20 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 ongoing challenges to authority 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 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of ongoing challenges to authority?
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

וַיִּקְרַב	אֶל יְהוָה	וַיֹּאמֶר	הָאִשָּׁה		
And when he was come near	H413	And he answered	unto her the woman		
H7126		H559	H802		
הֲאֵתָהּ	יֹאבָב	וַיֹּאמֶר	אָנֹכִי	וַיֹּאמֶר	לִי
H859	Art thou Joab	And he answered	H589	And he answered	H0
	H3097	H559		H559	
שָׁמַעַ	דְּבָרַי	אֲמַתְךָ	וַיֹּאמֶר	שָׁמַעַ	אֲנֹכִי
I do hear	the words	of thine handmaid	And he answered	I do hear	H595
H8085	H1697	H519	H559	H8085	