

2 Samuel 15:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

Analysis

And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Absalom's Rebellion, emphasizing betrayal, trusting God in exile. Absalom's conspiracy demonstrates calculating betrayal and political manipulation. David's flight from Jerusalem parallels later exile experiences, developing themes of trusting God during devastating reversals. The Hebrew emphasizes Absalom's patient, methodical undermining of David's authority. Cross-references to Psalms written during this period (Psalms 3, 63) reveal David's spiritual responses to political catastrophe.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 15 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 betrayal, trusting God in exile 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 betrayal, trusting God in exile?
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

וְיָהִי	מִאָחָרָה	כִּי עָשָׂה	לוֹ	אֶבְשָׁל	וּמְ
H1961	And it came to pass after this	H3651	prepared	H0	that Absalom
	H310		H6213		H53
מְרַכְבָּה	וְיָמִים	אֲשֶׁר	בְּפָנָיו	בְּצָאת	הַמְּרַכְבָּה
him chariots	and horses	and fifty	men	to run	before
H4818	H5483	H2572	H376	H7323	H6440

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 1:5 (Parallel theme): Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

Psalms 20:7 (Parallel theme): Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

1 Samuel 8:11 (Parallel theme): And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

2 Samuel 12:11 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

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