

2 Samuel 15:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

Analysis

And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וַיָּבֹא	הַמַּגֵּן יָד	אֶל	דָּוִד	לֵאמֹר	כִּי הֵם	לִב
And there came	a messenger	H413	to David	saying	H1961	The hearts
H935	H5046		H1732	H559		H3820
אֵל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֲחֵרֵי	אַבְשָׁלוֹם:			
of the men	of Israel	are after	Absalom			
H376	H3478	H310	H53			

Additional Cross-References

Judges 9:3 (Parallel theme): And his mother's brethren spake of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, He is our brother.

Matthew 27:22 (Parallel theme): Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

2 Samuel 15:6 (References Israel): And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

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