

2 Samuel 15:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, which were concubines, to keep the house.

Analysis

And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, which were concubines, to keep the house.

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

וַיֵּצֵא א	הַמֶּלֶךְ לְךְ	וְכָל	הַבֵּית:	בְּרַגְלֵי יו	וַיֵּצֵא ב
went forth	And the king	H3605	and all his household	after	left
H3318	H4428		H1004	H7272	H5800
הַמֶּלֶךְ לְךְ	אֶת	עֶשְׂרִים	נָשִׁים	פְּלִגְשֵׁי יִם	לְשָׂמֹר ר
And the king	H853	ten	women	which were concubines	to keep
H4428		H6235	H802	H6370	H8104
			הַבֵּית:		
			and all his household		
			H1004		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 3:1 (Parallel theme): LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me.

2 Samuel 20:3 (Kingdom): And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.

Romans 12:2 (Parallel theme): And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

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