

# 2 Samuel 15:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou art a stranger, and also an exile.

## Analysis

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**Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou art a stranger, and also an exile.**

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

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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

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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אֶתְּ הַ	גַּם	תֵּלַךְ	לְמֶה	הַגִּתִּי י	אֶתְּ י	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וַיֹּאמֶר
H859	H1571	H1980	H4100	H1663	H863	H413	H4428	H559
the king	also	you	to	the Gittite	to Ittai	the king	Then said	
H3588								
כִּי	הַמֶּלֶךְ	עִם	וְשָׁב	אֶתְּנוּ	שׁוּב	אֶתְּנוּ		
H3588	H4428	H5973	H3427	H7725	H7725	H854		
the king	and abide	thou also with us return						
לְמִקְוֶמְךָ:	אֶתְּ הַ	גַּלְהָ	וְגַם	אַתָּה	נִכְרִי י			
H4725	H859	H1540	H1571	H859	H5237			
to thy place	and also an exile	and also a stranger			for thou art a stranger			

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 18:2** (Kingdom): And David sent forth a third part of the people under the hand of Joab, and a third part under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and a third part under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said unto the people, I will surely go forth with you myself also.

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