

2 Samuel 15:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth be with thee.

Analysis

Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth be with thee.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

תָּמָּ וּלְ	בֹאֲךָ	יְהִי וְ	אֲנֹכֶךָ	עַמְּ נֹ
but yesterday	Whereas thou camest	should I this day	up and down	
H8543	H935	H3117	H5128	H5973
לָלָ כָּת	וְאֲנִי	הוֹלִיךְ	אֲשֶׁר עַל	אֲנִי
make thee go		with us seeing I go		
H3212	H589	H1980	H5921	H834
			H589	
				with us seeing I go
				H1980
וְהָשִׁב	וְהָשִׁב	אֶת	אֶתְיָךְ	עַמְּךָ
thou and take back	thou and take back		thy brethren	
H7725	H7725	H853	H251	H5973
				mercy
				H2617
וְאֶתְּ:				
and truth				
H571				

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 23:13 (Parallel theme): Then David and his men, which were about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbore to go forth.

2 Samuel 2:6 (Truth): And now the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing.

John 1:17 (Grace): For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.