

2 Samuel 15:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ittai answered the king, and said, As the LORD liveth, and as my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be.

Analysis

And Ittai answered the king, and said, As the LORD liveth, and as my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through 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

וַיַּעַן	אֶת־יְיָ	אֶת־	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וַיֹּאמֶר	לִחְיִים	יְהוָה	לִחְיִים
answered	And Ittai	H853	the king	and said	liveth	As the LORD	liveth
H6030	H863		H4428	H559	H2416	H3068	H2416
אֲדֹנָיִי	הַמֶּלֶךְ	כִּי־	אִם־	בְּמָקוֹם	אֵשׁ	יְהוָה	שֶׁ־
and as my lord	the king	H3588	H518	surely in what place	H834	H1961	H8033
H113	H4428			H4725			
אֲדֹנָיִי	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אִם־	לְמָוֶת	אִם־	לִחְיִים	כִּי־	
and as my lord	the king	H518	shall be whether in death	H518	liveth	H3588	
H113	H4428		H4194		H2416		
שֶׁ־	יְהוָה	עֲבֹדְךָ:					
H8033	H1961	even there also will thy servant					
		H5650					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 17:17 (Parallel theme): A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

2 Kings 4:30 (References Lord): And the mother of the child said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.

Acts 21:13 (References Lord): Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 11:23 (References Lord): Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Proverbs 18:24 (Parallel theme): A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

2 Corinthians 7:3 (Parallel theme): I speak not this to condemn you: for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you.

2 Kings 2:2 (References Lord): And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Beth-el. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Beth-el.

2 Kings 2:6 (References Lord): And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.

2 Kings 2:4 (References Lord): And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.