

2 Samuel 15:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

Analysis

And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וְכָל	הָאָרֶץ	בֹּכִים	קוֹל	גָּדוֹל	וְכָל	הָעָם
H3605	And all the country	wept	voice	with a loud	H3605	and all the people
	H776	H1058	H6963	H1419		H5971
	עָבַר יָם	וְהֶם לֶךְ	עָבַר יָם	בֶּן חַל	קִדְרֹן	
	also himself passed over	the king	also himself passed over	the brook	Kidron	
	H5674	H4428	H5674	H5158	H6939	
וְכָל	הָעָם	עָבַר יָם	עַל	פָּנָיו	דֶּרֶךְ	אֶת
H3605	and all the people	also himself passed over	H5921	toward	the way	H853
	H5971	H5674		H6440	H1870	
	הַמִּדְבָּר:					
	of the wilderness					
	H4057					

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 16:2 (Kingdom): And the king said unto Ziba, What meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, The asses be for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.

John 18:1 (Parallel theme): When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

1 Kings 2:37 (Parallel theme): For it shall be, that on the day thou goest out, and passest over the brook Kidron, thou shalt know for certain that thou shalt surely die: thy blood shall be upon thine own head.