

2 Samuel 15:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And lo Zadok also, and all the Levites were with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city.

Analysis

And lo Zadok also, and all the Levites were with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God: and they set down the ark of God; and Abiathar went up, until all the people had done passing out of the city.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וְהָיָה הַ	גַּם	צָד וּקִי	וְכָל	הַלְוִיִּם	אֶת וְ
H2009	H1571	And lo Zadok	H3605	also and all the Levites	H854
		H6659		H3881	
נִשְׂאִים	אֶת	אֲרוֹן	בְּרִית	הָאֱלֹהִים	
were with him bearing	H853	the ark	of the covenant	of God	
H5375		H727	H1285	H430	
וַיָּקֻם	אֶת	אֲרוֹן	הָאֱלֹהִים	וַיַּעַל	אֲבִיָּאֲתָר
and they set down	H853	the ark	of God	went up	and Abiathar
H3332		H727	H430	H5927	H5704
וְהָיוּ	כָּל	הָעָם	לְעֵב וּרְ	מִן	הָעִיר:
had done	H3605	until all the people	passing	H4480	out of the city
H8552		H5971	H5674		H5892

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 4:15 (Parallel theme): And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation.

2 Samuel 8:17 (Parallel theme): And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, were the priests; and Seraiah was the scribe;

2 Samuel 20:25 (Parallel theme): And Sheva was scribe: and Zadok and Abiathar were the priests:

1 Samuel 22:20 (Parallel theme): And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David.