

2 Samuel 15:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

Analysis

And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

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 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וְדָוִד	עָלָה	בְּמַעַל הַ	הַיְזִית יָם	עָלָה		
And David	and they went up	by the ascent	of mount Olivet	and they went up		
H1732	H5927	H4608	H2132	H5927		
וּבְכָה:	רֹאשׁוֹ	לּוֹ	חָפּוּ	וְהָיָא	הֵלֵךְ	יָחַף וְכָל
and wept	and had his head	H0	covered	H1931	and he went	barefoot
H1058	H7218		H2645		H1980	H3605
וְכָל הָעָם	אֶת יְאֹשֶׁר	אֶת יְשׁוּעָה	חָפּוּ	אֶת יֵשׁוּעָה	וְכָל הָעָם	וְכָל הָעָם
and all the people	H834	H854	covered	every man	and had his head	
H5971			H2645	H376	H7218	
עָלָה	עָלָה	וּבְכָה:				
and they went up	and they went up	and wept				
H5927	H5927	H1058				

Additional Cross-References

Esther 6:12 (Parallel theme): And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered.

2 Samuel 19:4 (Parallel theme): But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!

Ezekiel 24:23 (Parallel theme): And your tires shall be upon your heads, and your shoes upon your feet: ye shall not mourn nor weep; but ye shall pine away for your iniquities, and mourn one toward another.

Ezekiel 24:17 (Parallel theme): Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men.