

2 Samuel 15:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy servant, O king; as I have been thy father's servant hitherto, so will I now also be thy servant: then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel.

Analysis

But if thou return to the city, and say unto Absalom, I will be thy servant, O king; as I have been thy father's servant hitherto, so will I now also be thy servant: then mayest thou for me defeat the counsel of Ahithophel.

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

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

עָבֵד בָּךְ לְאַבְשָׁלוֹם	I will be thy servant unto Absalom	אָמַרְתָּ וְיֹאמֶר	But if thou return	בָּעֵר יְרֵא אֶת	to the city
H5650	H53	H559	H7725	H518	
אָבִיךְ אָבֵד בָּךְ אָבֵד בָּךְ	as I have been thy father's	אָחִיךְ הָיָה אָחִיךְ הָיָה	O king	אֶת יְרֵא אֶת יְרֵא	
H1	H5650	H1961	H4428	H589	
וְכִפְרַת הַמָּאֵת	then mayest thou for me defeat	עָבֵד בָּךְ יְאַתְּ הַמָּאֵת	I will be thy servant	יְאַתְּ הַמָּאֵת	hitherto
H6565	H5650	H589	H6258	H227	
אַחִיתְפֵּל:	of Ahithophel	עַצְתָּא תְּאַתְּ לְ	the counsel	H853	H0
H302	H6098				

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