

# 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

---

וְאֵם	הָעִיר	תָּשׁוּב	וְאָמַרְתָּ	לְאַבְשָׁלוֹם	עֶבְדְּךָ
H518	to the city	But if thou return	and say	unto Absalom	I will be thy servant
	H5892	H7725	H559	H53	H5650
וְאֵנִי	אָבִיךָ	עֶבְדְּךָ	אֲהִיָּה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֲנִי
H589	as I have been thy father's	I will be thy servant	O king		
	H1	H5650	H4428		
וְהִפַּרְתָּהּ	עֶבְדְּךָ	וְאֵנִי	וְעַתָּה	מֵאֵז	
	I will be thy servant			hitherto	
	H5650	H589	H6258	H227	
אֲחִיתֹפֶל:	עֲצָת	אֵת	לִי		
	the counsel				
	of Ahithophel				
	H302		H853	H0	
		H6098			

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)