

2 Samuel 15:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

Analysis

And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form 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

וְהָיָה		בִּקְרֹב		אֶיֶשׁ		לְהִשָּׁתַחֲוֹת									
H1961		came nigh		And it was so that when any man		to him to do him obeisance									
		H7126		H376		H7812									
וְלֹ		וְשָׁלַח		אֶת		יָדוֹ		וְהִקָּחַ		לֹ		וְנִשָּׁק		לּוֹ	
H0		he put forth		H853		his hand		and took		H0		him and kissed		H0	
		H7971				H3027		H2388				H5401			

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 14:33 (Parallel theme): So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.

Psalms 55:21 (Parallel theme): The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.

Proverbs 26:25 (Parallel theme): When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.

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