

# 2 Samuel 15:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.

## Analysis

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**For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.**

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

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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כִּי	נִדָּר	נִדָּר	עַבְדְּךָ	בְּשִׁבְתִּי	בְּגֶשְׁחִי	בְּאֶרֶץ
H3588	a vow	vowed	For thy servant	while I abode	at Geshur	in Syria
	H5088	H5087	H5650	H3427	H1650	H758
לֵאמֹר	אִם	יְשִׁיבֵנִי	יְשִׁיבֵנִי	יְהוָה:		
saying	H518	shall bring me again	shall bring me again	If the LORD		
H559		H7725	H7725	H3068		
וְשָׁלַם	יְרֵא	וְעַבַּדְתִּי	אֶת	יְהוָה:		
indeed to Jerusalem		then I will serve	H853	If the LORD		
H3389		H5647		H3068		

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 1:11** (References Lord): And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

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