

2 Samuel 16:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

Analysis

And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David's Humiliation, emphasizing suffering within God's sovereignty. David's humiliation through Shimei's cursing and Ziba's deception tests his faith in God's sovereignty. His refusal to punish Shimei demonstrates trust that God controls even unjust accusations. Ahithophel's counsel and Absalom's public sin with David's concubines fulfill Nathan's prophecy (12:11-12). Theological themes include suffering within God's sovereign plan, responding to unjust accusations with faith, and the full exposure of hidden sin.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 16 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 suffering within God's sovereignty

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of suffering within God's sovereignty?
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

צִיבָּא	וְהַפְּנֵי	הַמֶּרֶכֶת	אֲשֶׁר	מִעֵדָה	רַבָּעַת	עַבְרִי	וְאַדְנִי	דָּבָר
And when David	past	was a little	the top		H2009	of the hill	beheld Ziba	
H1732	H5674	H4592	H7218				H6717	
the servant	of Mephibosheth	met	him with a couple	of asses				
H5288	H4648	H7125	H6776	H2543				
סַבְּךָ יְמִין	וְעַלְיָקָם	וְמִמְּאָה	לְפָנֵים	וְאַזְמָדָה	לְפָנֵים	סַבְּךָ יְמִין	וְעַלְיָקָם	וְמִמְּאָה
saddled		and an hundred	loaves of bread	and an hundred				
H2280	H5921	H3967	H3899	H3967				
bunches of raisins	and an hundred	of summer fruits	and a bottle	of wine				
H6778	H3967	H7019	H5035	H3196				

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 25:18 (Sin): Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses.

2 Samuel 15:32 (References David): And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the mount, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head:

Jeremiah 40:10 (Parallel theme): As for me, behold, I will dwell at Mizpah to serve the Chaldeans, which will come unto us: but ye, gather ye wine, and summer fruits, and oil, and put them in your vessels, and dwell in your cities that ye have taken.

Jeremiah 40:12 (Parallel theme): Even all the Jews returned out of all places whither they were driven, and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah, unto Mizpah, and gathered wine and summer fruits very much.

1 Chronicles 12:40 (Sin): Moreover they that were nigh them, even unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, and meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly: for there was joy in Israel.

Amos 8:1 (Parallel theme): Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit.

1 Samuel 10:3 (Parallel theme): Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Beth-el, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine:

1 Samuel 16:20 (References David): And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul.

2 Samuel 15:30 (References David): 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.

2 Samuel 19:32 (Parallel theme): Now Barzillai was a very aged man, even fourscore years old: and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he was a very great man.