

2 Samuel 16:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.

Analysis

And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

אָמַר	דָּיוֹד	אֶל	אֶל	כָּל	כָּל	עֲבָדִים
hath bidden	And David	H413	to Abishai	H413	H3605	and to all his servants
H559	H1732		H52			H5650
הִנֵּה הַזֶּבֶן בֶּן יַעֲשֵׂר	אֲשֶׁר	אָצָא	מִמֶּעָם	שְׁמַר	אֶת	מִבְקֵשׁ
H2009	Behold my son	H1121	H834	H3318	H4578	seeketh
						H853
בְּנֵי נַפְשִׁי	עַתָּה	בְּנֵי	כִּי	וְאַף	כִּי	כִּי
my life	H637	H3588	H6258	H0	how much more now may this Benjamite	H1145
H5315						
לֹא יְקַל לְפָגֵח	לֹא	לְפָגֵח	כִּי	אָמַר	לֹא	לֹא
do it let him alone	H0	and let him curse	H7043	H3588	hath bidden	H0
H3240					H559	
לְפָגֵח	לֹא	לְפָגֵח	כִּי	אָמַר	לֹא	לֹא
for the LORD						H3068

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