

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

Psalms 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 דָּוִד אֶל אַבִּישָׁי וְאֶל כָּל עֲבָדָיו
hath bidden **And David** H413 **to Abishai** H413 H3605 **and to all his servants**
H559 H1732 H52 H5650

הֵן הִיא בֶּן יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר יָצָא מִמֶּעֵי מִבֶּקֶן שׁוֹמֵר
H2009 **Behold my son** H834 **which came forth** **of my bowels** **seeketh** H853
H1121 H3318 H4578 H1245

יְנִיחַ וְעַתָּה בֶּן הַיְּמִינִי חַיֵּי וְאֵת חַיֵּי
my life H637 H3588 H6258 H0 **how much more now may this Benjamite**
H5315 H1145

הֵן חַיֵּי לוֹ וַיִּקְלֵל כִּי אָמַר לֹא יְהוָה:
do it let him alone H0 **and let him curse** H3588 **hath bidden** H0 **for the LORD**
H3240 H7043 H559 H3068