

2 Samuel 16:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.

Analysis

It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

יֵאָמֵר H194	וְיִבְרָא הָאֱלֹהִים H7200	יִהְיֶה הָאֱלֹהִים H3068	וְיִבְרָא הָאֱלֹהִים H6040	וְיִבְרָא הָאֱלֹהִים H7725
	will look	It may be that the LORD		will requite
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Additional Cross-References

Psalms 25:18 (Sin): Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.

Hebrews 12:10 (Parallel theme): For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Deuteronomy 23:5 (Sin): Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee.

Romans 8:28 (Good): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

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.

2 Thessalonians 1:7 (References Lord): And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

2 Corinthians 4:17 (Parallel theme): For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

Isaiah 27:7 (Parallel theme): Hath he smitten him, as he smote those that smote him? or is he slain according to the slaughter of them that are slain by him?