

2 Samuel 16:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.

Analysis

And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

בַּצֵּל לַע	הַלּוֹךְ	וְשִׁמְעִי	בְּדֶרֶךְ	וְאַנְשֵׁי יוֹ	דָּוִד	הַלּוֹךְ
side	as he went	Shimei	by the way	H376	And as David	as he went
H6763	H1980	H8096	H1870		H1732	H1980
בְּאַבְנִים	וַיִּסֶּקֶן לְ	וַיִּקְלַל לְ	הַלּוֹךְ	לְעֵמֶת וְ	הָהָר	
stones	and threw	him and cursed	as he went	at	on the hill's	
H68	H5619	H7043	H1980	H5980	H2022	
בְּעָפָר:	וְעָפָר	לְעֵמֶת וְ				
dust	him and cast	at				
H6083	H6080	H5980				

