

2 Samuel 16:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Absalom said to Hushai, Is this thy kindness to thy friend?
why wentest thou not with thy friend?

Analysis

And Absalom said to Hushai, Is this thy kindness to thy friend? why wentest thou not with thy friend?

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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	וְיֵאמֶר	אֶבְשָׁלוֹם	אֶל	חֹשֵׁי י	זֶה	חַסְדְּךָ	אֵת
said		And Absalom		to Hushai		Is this thy kindness	
H559		H53	H413	H2365	H2088	H2617	H854
	רַעְיִךְ:		לָמָּה	לָא	הָלַכְתָּ	אֵת	רַעְיִךְ:
	thou not with thy friend			why wentest		thou not with thy friend	
	H7453		H4100	H3808	H1980	H854	H7453

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 19:25 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth?

