

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

את פסבד חוש י אל אבשלום וְ אַתָּה
said And Absalom H413 to Hushai H2088 Is this thy kindness H854
H559 H53 H2365 H2617

רַبָּךְ אַתָּה בְּלִכְתַּב לֹא לְמַה רַבָּךְ
thou not with thy friend H4100 H3808 why wentest H1980 thou not with thy friend H7453
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?

