

2 Samuel 16:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.

Analysis

And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

פָּلָגַשׁ	וְ	אֶל	בְּ	וְ	אֶלְעָשֵׂל	מִ	אֶל	אֲחִיתָן	פָּל	וְ	אֶתְרָה		
said	And Ahithophel	H413			unto Absalom			Go in	H413		concubines		
H559	H302				H53			H935			H6370		
כָּל	וְ	אֲשֶׁר	רָא	אֲשֶׁר	יָמִין	הַבָּיִת	וְ	לְשָׁמֶן	וְ	הַבָּיִת	וְ	יָשַׁם	
of thy father	H1	H834			which he hath left	H3240		to keep	H8104		the house	H1004	shall hear
												H8085	H3605
אָבִיךָ	וְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	כִּי		נִבְּרָא	שָׁתָּה	אַתָּה						
and all Israel	H3478	H3588			that thou art abhorred	H887	H854	of thy father	H1				
אַתָּה:	אֲשֶׁר	רָא	כָּל	וְ	אֲזִים	וְ	אֲזִים						
of all that are with thee be strong	H2388				then shall the hands	H3027		H3605	H834	H854			

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 20:3 (Parallel theme): And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.

2 Samuel 15:16 (Parallel theme): And the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten women, which were concubines, to keep the house.

Zechariah 8:13 (References Israel): And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.

Leviticus 18:8 (Parallel theme): The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness.

2 Samuel 2:7 (Parallel theme): Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant: for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them.

