

# 2 Samuel 16:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

## Analysis

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**So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.**

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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיִּבְּ א	עַל הַגָּג	הָאֵל הָל אֲבִשָׁלוֹם	וַיִּשָּׁר	
went in	upon the top of the house	a tent	Absalom	So they spread
H935	H1406	H168	H53	H5186
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	כָּל לְעֵינַי	אֲבִי יוֹ	פְּלִגְשֵׁי י	אֶל אֲבִשָׁלוֹם
of all Israel	in the sight	unto his father's	concubines	Absalom
H3478	H5869	H1	H6370	H53

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

**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.

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