

2 Samuel 16:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said, And where is thy master's son? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem: for he said, To day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.

Analysis

And the king said, And where is thy master's son? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem: for he said, To day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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	אָמַר	רַבָּה	לְךָ	בְּנֵי	וְאֵת	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אָדָן	יְבָשָׂה	אָמַר	רַבָּה	לְךָ	אָמַר
for he said	And the king		H346	son	And where is thy master's		for he said					
H559	H4428			H1121			H113					H559
כִּי	בֵּירַשְׁתָּלָם			וַיֵּשֶׁב	בְּהַבָּה							
And Ziba	And the king		H2009	Behold he abideth	at Jerusalem							H3588
H413	H4428			H3427								H3389
אָמַר	אָמַר	לְיְמִינְךָ	בְּיַמִּים	יְשַׁבָּא	לְבֵית	יְהוָה	אָמַר					
for he said	To day	restore	H0	shall the house	of Israel							
H559	H3117	H7725		H1004	H3478							H853
אָבִינוּ	מֶמְלָכָה	וְתִּתְּנָה										
me the kingdom	of my father											
H4468	H1											

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