

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 הֶמֶל לֶךְ וְאֵי הָ בֶּן אֲדֹנָיִךְ אָמַר
for he said And the king H346 son And where is thy master's for he said
H559 H4428 H1121 H113 H559

כִּי בִירוּשָׁלַם יוֹשֵׁב הִנֵּה הֶמֶל לֶךְ אֶל צִיָּב א
And Ziba H413 And the king H2009 Behold he abideth at Jerusalem H3588
H6717 H4428 H3427 H3389

אֵת יִשְׂרָאֵל בֵּית לִי יֵשׁ יָבוֹ הַיּוֹם אָמַר
for he said To day restore H0 shall the house of Israel H853
H559 H3117 H7725 H1004 H3478

מִמְלָכִי וְתִי אָבִי:
me the kingdom of my father
H4468 H1