

2 Samuel 16:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

Analysis

Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

אֲשֶׁר כִּל לְבָבְךָ הִכְלִים צִבָּא בַּפְּנֵלֶךָ וַיֹּאמֶר
Then said O king And Ziba H2009 H0 H3605 H834
H559 H4428 H6717

לִמְפִיב שְׁת צִבָּא וַיֹּאמֶר צִבָּא
Behold thine are all that pertained unto Mephibosheth Then said And Ziba
H4648 H559 H6717

הַשְׁתַּחַנוּ יְתִי אָמֵץ בְּעֵינֶיךָ אָדָן בַּפְּנֵלֶךָ
I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight my lord O king
H7812 H4672 H2580 H5869 H113 H4428

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 18:13 (Parallel theme): He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

Proverbs 18:17 (Parallel theme): He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

Proverbs 19:2 (Parallel theme): Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.

Exodus 23:8 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous.

Deuteronomy 19:15 (Parallel theme): One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

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