

2 Samuel 16:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

Analysis

And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

וְאֵת	בְּמִלְחָמָה	עַד	בְּחֹורִים	וְהַבָּה	מִשְׁם	אִישׁ
came	And when king	David	H5704	to Bahurim	H2009	H8033

וְאֵצֶן	מִמְּפָשֵׁט חַת	בֵּית	שָׁא וְלִ	וְשִׁמוֹן
behold thence came out	of the family	of the house	of Saul	whose name
H3318	H4940	H1004	H7586	H8034

שִׁמְעֵי	בֶּן	גֵּרָא	וְאֵלֶּא	וְאֵלֶּא
was Shimei	the son	of Gera	behold thence came out	behold thence came out
H8096	H1121	H1617	H3318	H3318

וְמַקְלֵל:

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 3:16 (Parallel theme): And her husband went with her along weeping behind her to Bahurim. Then said Abner unto him, Go, return. And he returned.

Exodus 22:28 (Curse): Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.

1 Samuel 17:43 (Curse): And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

2 Samuel 17:18 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom: but they went both of them away quickly, and came to a man's house in Bahurim, which had a well in his court; whither they went down.