

2 Samuel 16:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.

Analysis

The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form 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

הָשִׁיב	עַל יָדְךָ	יְהוָה	כֹּל	דָּמָיִם	בֵּית
hath returned	H5921	The LORD	H3605	because thou art a bloody	of the house
H7725		H3068		H1818	H1004
וְלֹא	אֶשְׂרָר	מִלְכָּתְךָ	תִּתְּנֵהוּ	וְ	
of Saul	H834	in whose stead thou hast reigned	H8478	hath delivered	
H7586		H4427		H5414	
יְהוָה	אֶת	הַמְּלֹכָה	בְּיָד	אֲבִשָׁל וְ	וְהִנֵּה
The LORD	H853	the kingdom	into the hand	of Absalom	thy son
H3068		H4410	H3027	H53	H1121
					H2005
	בְּכָעֶתְךָ	אִישׁ כִּי	דָּמָיִם		
and behold thou art taken in thy mischief	H3588	man	because thou art a bloody		
H7451		H376	H1818		
אָתָּה:					
H859					

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 1:16 (Blood): And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed.

Judges 9:24 (Blood): That the cruelty done to the threescore and ten sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, which slew them; and upon the men of Shechem, which aided him in the killing of his brethren.