

2 Samuel 16:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

Analysis

Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	אַבִּישָׁי	בֶּן	צְרָרִיָּה	אֶל	לְךָ	בְּמִתְּהִלָּה	לְכַלְלָה
Then said	Abishai	the son	of Zeruiah	H413	the king	H4100	curse
H559	H52	H1121	H6870		H4428		H7043
בַּקְשָׁה לְבָבֶךָ	מִתְּהִלָּה	מִתְּהִלָּה	לְכַלְלָה	אַדְנָה	לְכַלְלָה	מִתְּהִלָּה	אַעֲבָרָה
dog	Why should this dead	H2088	H853	my lord	the king	let me go over	
H3611	H4191		H113	H4428		H5674	
רְאֵשׁוֹת	אַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	רְאֵשׁוֹת	אַתָּה	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה
I pray thee and take off	H853	his head	H7218				
H4994	H5493						

Additional Cross-References

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

2 Samuel 9:8 (Parallel theme): And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?

1 Samuel 24:14 (Kingdom): After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea.

2 Samuel 3:8 (Parallel theme): Then was Abner very wroth for the words of Ish-bosheth, and said, Am I a dog's head, which against Judah do shew kindness this day unto the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, that thou chargest me to day with a fault concerning this woman?

Acts 23:5 (Parallel theme): Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.

Luke 9:54 (References Lord): And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

1 Peter 2:17 (Kingdom): Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

2 Samuel 3:30 (Parallel theme): So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had slain their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.