

2 Samuel 19:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over Jordan before the king.

Analysis

And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over Jordan before the king.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David's Return, emphasizing restoration, leadership wisdom. David's return to Jerusalem requires political wisdom as he navigates competing factions. His restoration of enemies (Shimei) and reward of supporters demonstrates leadership discernment. Theological themes include wise leadership during restoration, the complexity of post-crisis reconciliation, balancing justice and mercy, and the necessity of moving forward despite ongoing tensions.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 19 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 restoration, leadership wisdom 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of restoration, leadership wisdom?
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

וְאֵלֶּיךָ לָךְ	אִישׁ	עֲמֹו	מִבְּנֵימָן	וְצִיבָה א
And there were a thousand	men	H5973	H1144	with him and Ziba
H505	H376			H6717
וְעֹשֶׂה יָדָיו	בְּבֵית	לְשֵׁא וְלֵ	וְחִמֵּי שֵׁשֶׁת	עֶשְׂרִי בְנֵי יוֹ
the servant	of the house	of Saul	and his fifteen	H6240 sons
H5288	H1004	H7586	H2568	H1121 and his twenty
				H6242
וְעֹבְדֵי יוֹ	אֵת וְ	וְצָלַח וְ	הַיַּרְדֵּי	לִפְנֵי י
servants	H854	with him and they went over	Jordan	before
H5650		H6743	H3383	H6440
				H4428 the king

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 9:2 (Kingdom): And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he.

2 Samuel 9:10 (Parallel theme): Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

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