

2 Samuel 19:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came again in peace.

Analysis

And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came again in peace.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

וּמִפְּבֹשֶׁת	בֶּן	שָׁא וּל	יָבֹד	לִקְבֹּא אֶת	הַמֶּלֶךְ
And Mephibosheth	the son	of Saul	came down	to meet	the king
H4648	H1121	H7586	H3381	H7125	H4428
לֹא	עָשָׂה	רַגְלָיו	לֹא	עָשָׂה	שִׁפְמוֹ וְ
and had neither	dressed	his feet	and had neither	dressed	his beard
H3808	H6213	H7272	H3808	H6213	H853
בְּגָדָיו	לֹא	כִּבֹּס	לְמִן	הַיּוֹם	לְכָת
his clothes	and had neither	nor washed	H4480	from the day	H1980
H899	H3808	H3526	H3117	H4428	
עַד	הַיּוֹם	אֲשֶׁר	בָּא	בְּשָׁלוֹם:	
H5704	from the day	H834	he came	again in peace	
H3117		H935	H7965		

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