

2 Samuel 19:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now Barzillai was a very aged man, even fourscore years old: and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he was a very great man.

Analysis

Now Barzillai was a very aged man, even fourscore years old: and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he was a very great man.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וְהָיָא	שָׁנָה	שְׁמֹנֶיִם	בֶּן	מְאֹד:	זָקֵן	וּבְרַזְלִי
Now	years	man even	old	for he was a very	aged	Barzillai
H1931	H8141	H8084	H1121	H3966	H2204	H1271
כִּי	בְּמַחֲנֵי	בְּשִׁיבָתוֹ	הָמָּה	לָרֹאשׁ	אֶת	כָּלֶּכֶּל
H3588	at Mahanaim	while he lay	and he had provided the king			of sustenance
	H4266	H7871	H4428		H853	H3557
מְאֹד:	הָיָא	גָּדוֹל	אִישׁ			
for he was a very		great	man			
H3966	H1931	H1419	H376			

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 25:2 (Parallel theme): And there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

Job 1:3 (Parallel theme): His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

Proverbs 16:31 (Parallel theme): The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

Deuteronomy 34:7 (Parallel theme): And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

Genesis 47:28 (Parallel theme): And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was an hundred forty and seven years.

Genesis 5:27 (Parallel theme): And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.

Genesis 9:29 (Parallel theme): And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.

Genesis 25:7 (Parallel theme): And these are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years.