

2 Samuel 19:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Barzillai said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem?

Analysis

And Barzillai said unto the king, How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king unto Jerusalem?

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

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	בְּרַזְלַי י	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ	כַּמָּה ה	יָמֵי	שָׁנָי	חַיֵּי
said	And Barzillai	H413	unto the king	H4100	How long	H8147	H2416
H559	H1271		H4428		H3117		
כִּי	אֶעֱלֶה	אֶת	הַמֶּלֶךְ	יְרוּשָׁלַם:			
H3588	that I should go up	H854	unto the king	unto Jerusalem			
	H5927		H4428	H3389			

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 7:29 (Parallel theme): But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

James 4:14 (Parallel theme): Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

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