

2 Samuel 19:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am this day fourscore years old: and can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?

Analysis

I am this day fourscore years old: and can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by 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

בֶּן	שָׁמֹנִי יָם	שָׁנָה	אֲנֹכִי	הֵי יוֹם	הֲאֵד עַל	בֵּין
old	fourscore	years	H595	I am this day	and can I discern	H996
H1121	H8084	H8141		H3117	H3045	
טוֹב	וְלֵךְ עַל	אִם	יִטַּע מִן	עַבְדְּךָ	אֶת	אֲשֶׁר
between good	and evil	H518	taste	can thy servant	H853	or what
H2896	H7451		H2938	H5650		H834
אֲכַל						
וְאֶת	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשַׁתְּהָ	אִם	אֲשִׁמַּע	עוֹד	בֶּקוֹל
H853	or what	I drink	H518	can I hear	H5750	any more the voice
	H834	H8354		H8085		H6963
וְשָׂרָה	וְשָׂרָה	וְיֵהוּיָהּ	וְלֵמָּה	עַבְדְּךָ	עוֹד	
and singing women	and singing women			can thy servant		
H7891	H7891			H5650		
לְמַשָּׂא	אֶל	אֲדֹנָי	הַמֶּלֶךְ:			
be yet a burden	H413	unto my lord	the king			
H4853		H113	H4428			

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 15:33 (Parallel theme): Unto whom David said, If thou passest on with me, then thou shalt be a burden unto me:

Psalms 90:10 (Parallel theme): The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Ezra 2:65 (Sin): Beside their servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women.