

# 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

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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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

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בָּאֵד שָׁמָן יְמִינֵךְ שָׁנָה אָנֹכִי הַיְיָ וְאַתָּה  
old fourscore years H595 I am this day and can I discern H996  
H1121 H8084 H8141 H3117 H3045 H996

אָכַל אֲשֶׁר עֲבָדָךְ אַתָּה וְאַתָּה  
between good and evil H518 taste H2938 can thy servant H853 or what H834 I eat H398  
H2896 H7451 H518 H2938 H5650 H834 H398

בְּקָר וְלֹעֲדָה אֲשֶׁר אָשַׁתְּ הַיְיָ אֲשֶׁר  
or what I drink H518 can I hear H5750 any more the voice H6963  
H853 H834 H8354 H8085 H5750 H6963

עֲבָדָךְ יְהִי הַלְּמָה אֲשֶׁר וְתִשְׁרַׁ וְתִשְׁרַׁ  
and singing women and singing women H4100 H1961 can thy servant H5750  
H7891 H7891 H4100 H1961 H5650 H5750

בְּפִלְגָּה אֲלֹהִים יְהִי אֲלֹהִים  
be yet a burden H413 unto my lord H113 the king H4428  
H4853 H413 H113 H4428

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.