

2 Samuel 19:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, and be buried by the grave of my father and of my mother. But behold thy servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good unto thee.

Analysis

Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, and be buried by the grave of my father and of my mother. But behold thy servant Chimham; let him go over with my lord the king; and do to him what shall seem good unto thee.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וְשָׁב I pray thee turn back again H7725	נָ א H4994	עֲבֹדְךָ But behold thy servant H5650	וְאָמַרְתִּי that I may die H4191			
בְּעִירִי י in mine own city H5892	עִם H5973	קִבְרִי and be buried by the grave H6913	אָבִי י of my father H1	וְאִמִּי י and of my mother H517		
וְהִנֵּה הוּא H2009	עֲבֹדְךָ But behold thy servant H5650	כִּמְחָם Chimham H3643	יַעֲבֹר let him go over H5674	עִם H5973	אֲדֹנָי י with my lord H113	
הַמֶּלֶךְ לְךָ the king H4428	וַעֲשֵׂה and do H6213	לִי H0	אֶת H853	אֲשֶׁר H834	טוֹב to him what shall seem good H2896	בְּעֵינֶיךָ H5869

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 41:17 (Parallel theme): And they departed, and dwelt in the habitation of Chimham, which is by Beth-lehem, to go to enter into Egypt,

1 Kings 2:7 (Parallel theme): But shew kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table: for so they came to me when I fled because of Absalom thy brother.

2 Samuel 19:40 (Kingdom): Then the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him: and all the people of Judah conducted the king, and also half the people of Israel.