

# 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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## 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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וְשַׁב	נָא	עֲבָדָךְ	וְאֶתְתָּ
I pray thee turn back again	H4994	But behold thy servant	that I may die
	H7725		H4191
בָּעֵירִי	עַמְּךָ	בָּרְךָ	אֶתְתָּ
in mine own city	H5973	and be buried by the grave	of my father
	H5892		H1
	H6913		H517
וְהַבָּה הָלֵךְ	עֲבָדָךְ	כִּמְחַם	עִמְּךָ
But behold thy servant	H5650	Chimham	let him go over
	H3643		H5674
	H5973		H113
אֶתְתָּ	עִמְּךָ	אֶתְתָּ	בָּעֵינֵיכֶם:
אֲשֶׁר	כִּמְחַם	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר
אַתְּ לֹא	עִמְּךָ	אַתְּ לֹא	אַתְּ לֹא
וְעָשָׂה	בָּעֵינֵיכֶם:	וְעָשָׂה	וְעָשָׂה
בַּמְּלֵךְ	בְּעִירִיךְ	בַּמְּלֵךְ	בְּעִירִיךְ
and do	H6213	H0	H853
	H834		H834
	H2896		H5869

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.