

2 Samuel 19:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!

Analysis

But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!

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

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

הָמָּ לֶךְ	לָא ט	אֶת	פָּנָי	וַיֵּזַע קֹ	הָמָּ לֶךְ	ק וּל	גָּד וּל
But the king	covered	H853	his face	cried	But the king	voice	with a loud
H4428	H3813		H6440	H2199	H4428	H6963	H1419
בְּנִי:	אַבְשָׁל וָם	אַבְשָׁל וָם	בְּנִי:	בְּנִי:			
O my son	Absalom	Absalom	O my son	O my son			
H1121	H53	H53	H1121	H1121			

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 18:33 (Kingdom): And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

2 Samuel 15:30 (Parallel theme): And David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet, and wept as he went up, and had his head covered, and he went barefoot: and all the people that was with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

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