

# 2 Samuel 19:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the people came before the king: for Israel had fled every man to his tent.

## Analysis

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**Then the king arose, and sat in the gate. And they told unto all the people, saying, Behold, the king doth sit in the gate. And all the people came before the king: for Israel had fled every man to his tent.**

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

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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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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through 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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וְלֹכֶל בְּשַׁעַר יוֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר וְלֹכֶל בְּשַׁעַר  
And all the people and sat in the gate Behold the king arose

H3605 H8179 H3427 H4428 H6965 H4428

וַיָּבֹא בְּשַׁעַר יוֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר וְלֹכֶל בְּשַׁעַר  
came and sat in the gate Behold the king saying And they told

H935 H8179 H3427 H4428 H559 H2009 H5046

אֵלֶּנֶל בְּשַׁעַר וְלֹכֶל בְּשַׁעַר וְלֹכֶל בְּשַׁעַר  
every man had fled for Israel Behold the king before And all the people

H376 H5127 H3478 H4428 H6440 H5971 H3605

לְאַבְלֵי:  
to his tent

H168

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 18:24** (Parallel theme): And David sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone.

**2 Samuel 18:4** (Kingdom): And the king said unto them, What seemeth you best I will do. And the king stood by the gate side, and all the people came out by hundreds and by thousands.