

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

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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

וַיָּקָם	הִמָּלֵךְ	וַיֹּשֶׁב	בֵּין שַׁעַר	וְלִכְלֹךְ	הָעָם	
arose	Behold the king	and sat	in the gate	H3605	And all the people	
H6965	H4428	H3427	H8179		H5971	
וַיֹּבֵי	אֵלַי	הָיָה	הִמָּלֵךְ	וַיֹּשֶׁב	בֵּין שַׁעַר	וַיָּבֹא
And they told	saying	H2009	Behold the king	and sat	in the gate	came
H5046	H559		H4428	H3427	H8179	H935
כָּל	הָעָם	לִפְנֵי	הִמָּלֵךְ	לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	נָסוּ	אֶת יִשׁ
H3605	And all the people	before	Behold the king	for Israel	had fled	every man
	H5971	H6440	H4428	H3478	H5127	H376
לְאֹהֲלָיו:						
to his tent						
H168						

Additional Cross-References

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.