

2 Samuel 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.

Analysis

And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David Becomes King of Judah, emphasizing divine timing, patience in promises. The Hebrew *vayyimloch* (וַיֵּלֶךְ, 'and he reigned') marks David's official royal status over Judah at Hebron. The seven-year period before ruling all Israel demonstrates patient trust in God's timing. Theological themes include divine election, the gradual unfolding of God's promises through historical process, and the reality that human resistance to God's plans produces genuine suffering.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 2 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 divine timing, patience in promises 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 divine timing, patience in promises?
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

וַיְהִי י' H1961	אַחֲרָי H310	כִּי H3651	וַיִּשְׁאַל H7592	דָּוִד H1732	יְהוָה H3068
And it came to pass after this		enquired	And David	And the LORD	
וַיֹּאמֶר H559	אֶעֱלֶה H5927	בְּאַחַת H259	עַרְי H5892	יְהוּדָה H3063	וַיֹּאמֶר H559
And he said	Shall I go up	into any	of the cities	of Judah	And he said
יְהוָה H3068	אֶל יו H413	אֶעֱלֶה H5927	וַיֹּאמֶר H559	דָּוִד H1732	אֶנָּה H575
And the LORD		Shall I go up	And he said	And David	Shall I go up
וַיֹּאמֶר H559	חֶבְרֹנָה: H2275				
And he said	Unto Hebron				

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 23:2 (References Lord): Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

1 Samuel 30:31 (References David): And to them which were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were wont to haunt.

Genesis 32:2 (Parallel theme): And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

1 Samuel 23:4 (References Lord): Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.