

2 Samuel 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel was as light of foot as a wild roe.

Analysis

And there were three sons of Zeruiah there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel was as light of foot as a wild roe.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for 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

וְהָיוּ H1961	שָׁם H8033	שְׁלֹשָׁה H7969	בְּנֵי י H1121	צְרוּיָה H6870	יוֹאָב H3097	וְאַבִּישַׁי י H52
		And there were three	sons	of Zeruiah	there Joab	and Abishai
וְעִשָּׂהָאֵל H6214	וְעִשָּׂהָאֵל H6214	קָל H7031	בְּרִגְלֵי יו H7272	כַּאֲמֹר ד H259	הַצִּבּוֹרִים H6643	אִשׁ ר H834
and Asahel	and Asahel	was as light	of foot	as a	roe	
בְּשָׂדֵה: H7704						
wild						

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 12:8 (Parallel theme): And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains;

Habakkuk 3:19 (Parallel theme): The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

Psalms 18:33 (Parallel theme): He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places.

Song of Solomon 2:17: Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be thou like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.

Song of Solomon 8:14: Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.