

2 Samuel 2:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Abner said to him, Turn thee aside to thy right hand or to thy left, and lay thee hold on one of the young men, and take thee his armour. But Asahel would not turn aside from following of him.

Analysis

And Abner said to him, Turn thee aside to thy right hand or to thy left, and lay thee hold on one of the young men, and take thee his armour. But Asahel would not turn aside from following of him.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David Becomes King of Judah, emphasizing divine timing, patience in promises. The Hebrew vayyimloch (וַיַּמְלֹךְ) 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וְאָמַר אֶבְנֶר תַּעֲזִיב הַנֶּט לְבָנָךְ עַל יְמִינְךָ

וְאַתָּה	עַל	שְׁמַאלְךָ	וְאַתָּה	לְבָטַח	אַפְּדָה	יְמִינְךָ
H176	H5921	or to thy left	and lay thee hold	H0	on one	of the young men

וְקַח	לְבָתָר	אֶת	לְבָתָר	וְעַלְצָת	וְלֹא	אֶבְהָה	אֶבְהָה לְ	לֹס וְרַעַת
and take	H0	H853	thee his armour	H3808	would	But Asahel	not turn aside	

מאתך ריו:

from following

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