

2 Samuel 2:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Abner called to Joab, and said, Shall the sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long shall it be then, ere thou bid the people return from following their brethren?

Analysis

Then Abner called to Joab, and said, Shall the sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long shall it be then, ere thou bid the people return from following their brethren?

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וְקָרָא א	אֲבִנֵּי ר	אֶל	יֹאָב ב	תֹּאמַר ו	הֶלֶן צַח	תֹּאכַל
called	Then Abner	H413	to Joab	and said	for ever	devour
H7121	H74		H3097	H559	H5331	H398
יְרֵב	הֶל וְאֵל	יָד עֲתֵה	כִּי	מָכָה		
Shall the sword	H3808	knowest	H3588	thou not that it will be bitterness		
H2719		H3045		H4751		
תְּהִי ה	בְּאַחֲרֹנָה ה	וְעַד	מִתִּי	לֹא	תֹאמַר ו	לֵשׁ וּב
H1961	in the latter end	H5704	H4970	H3808	and said	the people
	H314				H559	H5971
						H7725
מֵאַחֲרָי	אֲחֵיהֶם:					
from following	their brethren					
H310	H251					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 46:14 (Word): Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes: say ye, Stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee.

Acts 7:26 (Parallel theme): And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?

Jeremiah 46:10 (Word): For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.