

2 Samuel 20:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask counsel at Abel: and so they ended the matter.

Analysis

Then she spake, saying, They were wont to speak in old time, saying, They shall surely ask counsel at Abel: and so they ended the matter.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Sheba's Rebellion, emphasizing ongoing challenges to authority. Sheba's rebellion demonstrates that David's troubles continue despite Absalom's defeat. The wise woman's intervention prevents unnecessary bloodshed. Theological themes include ongoing resistance to God's appointed leader, the value of wisdom in crisis resolution, the danger of divisive rhetoric, and God's provision of unexpected solutions through unlikely people.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 20 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 ongoing challenges to authority 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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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 ongoing challenges to authority?
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

בראשית	יברר 1	ידבר 1	לאם ר	לאם ר	בראשית
Then she spake	Then she spake	They were wont	They were wont	in old time	
H559	H559	H1696	H1696		H7223
רָאשָׁנָה	יִדְבַּר	יִדְבַּר	לֹאָמֶן	לֹאָמֶן	
Then she spake	They shall surely	They shall surely	וְשָׁאַל	וְשָׁאַל	
H559	H7592	H7592	לְשָׁאַל	לְשָׁאַל	
אֶבֶל	בְּאֵבֶל	בְּאֵבֶל	רָאשָׁנָה	רָאשָׁנָה	
counsel at Abel			in old time	in old time	
			H3651	H3651	

הַתְּמִימָה

and so they ended

H8552

