

2 Samuel 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

Analysis

Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David Becomes King of Israel, emphasizing God establishing His chosen king. David's anointing as king over all Israel fulfills promises made years earlier (1 Samuel 16:13). The conquest of Jerusalem and establishment of it as capital demonstrates God's blessing. Military victories over Philistines show divine enablement. Theological themes include God's faithfulness to promises, the importance of proper locations for worship, and divine empowerment for tasks God assigns.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 5 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 God establishing His chosen king 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of God establishing His chosen king?
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

גַּם	אֶתְּמַ וְלֹ	גַּם	שְׁלֹשׁ וְ	בְּהִי וְ	שָׂא וְ	מִ לְךָ	עַל יְנוֹ
H1571	Also in time past H865	H1571	H8032	H1961	when Saul H7586	was king H4428	H5921
הָ	יְהִי יְתֵה	מוֹצֵ יֵא	וְהֵמֶבֶ יֵ	אֶת			
H859	H1961	over us thou wast he that leddest out H3318	and broughtest in H935	H853			
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה הָ	אֶתְּ הָ לְךָ	תִּרְעֶה הָ	אֶת		
Israel H3478	said H559	and the LORD H3068	H0	H859	to thee Thou shalt feed H7462	H853	
עַמִּי	אֶת	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	וְאַתְּ הָ	תִּהְיֶה הָ	לְנֶגֶד יָד	עַל	
my people H5971	H853	Israel H3478	H859	H1961	and thou shalt be a captain H5057	H5921	
יִשְׂרָאֵל:							
Israel H3478							

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 2:6 (References Israel): And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Micah 5:4 (References Lord): And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

Ezekiel 34:23 (Parallel theme): And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

John 10:11 (Parallel theme): I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

2 Samuel 7:7 (References Israel): In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?

Isaiah 40:11 (Parallel theme): He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

1 Samuel 25:30 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel;

Isaiah 55:4 (Parallel theme): Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

1 Samuel 18:13 (Parallel theme): Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

Numbers 27:17 (References Lord): Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd.