

Measured Allegiance

Scripture-by-Stanza Unpacking

Stanza 1

*I was not born where Israel's songs were sung,
A stranger's tongue upon a foreign tongue.
Yet when I saw the Lord upon this land,
My heart was stirred to choose where I would stand.*

Scripture Insight:

Ittai was a foreigner—a Gittite from outside Israel—yet he chose to align himself with the God of Israel and His people.

- **2 Samuel 15:19** — Ittai is identified as a foreigner and recent arrival
- **Ruth 1:16** — “Your people will be my people and your God my God”

This stanza reflects a powerful truth: allegiance to God is not inherited—it is **chosen**. Like Ruth, Ittai demonstrates that faith is not bound by background, but by decision.

Stanza 2

*Not drawn by crown, nor by a throne secure,
For crowns will fall and kingdoms not endure.
But in this king I saw the Lord's own hand,
A shepherd's heart beneath His wise command.*

Scripture Insight:

Ittai's allegiance was not to power, but to what God had established through **King David**.

- **1 Samuel 16:7** — “The Lord looks at the heart”
- **Psalms 78:70–72** — David shepherded Israel with integrity

Measured Allegiance discerns beyond outward success. It recognizes God's hand and responds to **character and calling**, not merely position.

Stanza 3

*The day he fled, cast down from throne and sight,
When fear grew loud and hope withdrew from light,
I weighed the path, the cost before my eyes,
And chose the truth no shifting wind denies.*

Scripture Insight:

This moment reflects David's flight from Absalom—a time of fear, uncertainty, and loss.

- **2 Samuel 15:13–14** — David flees Jerusalem
- **Luke 14:28** — “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost?”

Ittai did not act impulsively. He **counted the cost**. Measured Allegiance considers consequences, yet chooses truth over safety.

Stanza 4

*“As surely lives the Lord,” my voice then gave,
“My life I bind where He has called me brave.
Where stands my king, in life or death I stay,
For God has marked the ground I will not sway.”*

Scripture Insight:

This stanza directly reflects Ittai's declaration of allegiance.

- **2 Samuel 15:21** — “As surely as the Lord lives... wherever my lord the king may be... there will your servant be.”
- **Joshua 24:15** — “Choose this day whom you will serve”

His allegiance is both **to the king and to God**—a covenant-like commitment. It is decisive, verbalized, and unwavering.

Stanza 5

*So learn, O heart, let not your love be light,
Nor fastened only where the path is bright.
But seek the Lord, and when His truth is known,
Stand firm, though all around you be overthrown.*

Scripture Insight:

This is the call to the reader: do not give allegiance lightly, nor withdraw it when it becomes costly.

- **1 Corinthians 15:58** — “Stand firm. Let nothing move you.”
- **Ephesians 6:13** — “...stand your ground...”

Measured Allegiance is not emotional—it is **anchored, tested, and steady**.

Stanza 6

*For measured souls do not in fear depart,
Their roots run deep in God’s unchanging heart.
And those who choose where truth and calling meet,
Will find their place made firm beneath their feet.*

Scripture Insight:

A life anchored in God produces stability and endurance.

- **Psalms 1:1–3** — Like a tree planted by streams of water
- **Colossians 2:6–7** — “Rooted and built up in Him... strengthened in the faith”

Measured Allegiance leads to a life that is **not easily shaken**, because it is rooted in what does not change—God Himself.

Closing Reflection

Ittai’s voice reminds us that allegiance is not proven in comfort, but in crisis. It is not formed in the moment—it is revealed there. And when our allegiance is first anchored in God, it gives us the clarity and courage to stand faithfully where He has called us.