

2 Samuel 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him:

Analysis

Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him:

This verse contributes to the narrative of David Learns of Saul's Death, emphasizing honoring God's anointed, genuine grief. The Hebrew terminology emphasizes David's respect for God's anointed (mashiach, מָשִׁיחַ) even after death. David's lament (vv. 19-27) represents some of Scripture's finest poetry, expressing genuine grief without compromising theological truth about Saul's disobedience. Cross-references to 1 Samuel demonstrate narrative continuity while developing themes of covenant faithfulness and proper mourning.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 1 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 honoring God's anointed, genuine grief 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of honoring God's anointed, genuine grief?
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

קָח	אָז	דָּוִד	בְּבִגְדָיו	וַיִּקְרַע	אֶת	כָּל	הָאֲנָשִׁים
took hold		Then David	on his clothes	and rent			
H2388		H1732	H899	H7167	H1571	H3605	H376
אֶתֹּ	אֲשֶׁר						
H834	H854						

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 37:29 (Parallel theme): And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

2 Samuel 3:31 (References David): And David said to Joab, and to all the people that were with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David himself followed the bier.

2 Samuel 13:31 (Parallel theme): Then the king arose, and tare his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with their clothes rent.

Genesis 37:34 (Parallel theme): And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

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