

# 2 Samuel 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.

## Analysis

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**And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.**

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

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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

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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וְסָפְדוּ	וַיִּבְכּוּ	וַיִּצְמוּ	עַד	הָעָרֶב	עַל	שָׂא וְלִ	יְעַל
And they mourned	and wept	and fasted	H5704	until even	H5921	for Saul	H5921
H5594	H1058	H6684		H6153		H7586	
וְהַיּוֹנָתָן	בְּנֵי	יְעַל	עַם	יְהוָה	יְעַל		
and for Jonathan	his son	H5921	and for the people	of the LORD	H5921		
H3083	H1121		H5971	H3068			
בֵּית	יִשְׂרָאֵל	כִּי	נָפְלוּ	בַּחֶרֶב:			
and for the house	of Israel	H3588	because they were fallen	by the sword			
H1004	H3478		H5307	H2719			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 24:17** (Parallel theme): Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

**Matthew 5:44** (Parallel theme): But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

**2 Corinthians 11:29** (Parallel theme): Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

**Amos 6:6** (Parallel theme): That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

**1 Peter 3:8** (Parallel theme): Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

**2 Samuel 3:35** (Parallel theme): And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat while it was yet day, David sware, saying, So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or ought else, till the sun be down.