

# 2 Samuel 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence art thou? And he answered, I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.

## Analysis

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**And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence art thou? And he answered, I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.**

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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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## 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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וַיֹּאמֶר	וְדָוִד	אֶל	הַנָּעַר
him Whence art thou And he answered	And David	H413	unto the young man
H559	H1732		H5288
וַיֹּאמֶר	אָתָּה	מִזֶּה	אֵי לֹא הִמָּגִיד
him Whence art thou And he answered	H859	H2088	that told
H559			H5046
אֲנִכִּי:	עַמְלִיקִי	גֵר	אִישׁ
H595	H6003	H1616	H376
an Amalekite			I am the son of a stranger
			H1121