

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

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

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

וְאַמְرָה
him Whence art thou And he answered
H559

וְאַמְרָה
unto the young man
H5288

אֲתָה
that told
H0

אֲתָה
him Whence art thou And he answered
H559

אֶתְכֶּן
I am the son
H1121

אֶתְכֶּן
of a stranger
H376

אֶתְכֶּן
an Amalekite
H1616

אֶתְכֶּן
an Amalekite
H6003