

2 Samuel 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.)

Analysis

(Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.)

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	לְלַמֵּד דָּ	בְּנֵי	יְהוּדָה	קִשֶׁת	הַיָּה
Also he bade	them teach	the children	of Judah	the use of the bow	H2009
H559	H3925	H1121	H3063	H7198	
כְּתוּבָה	עַל	סֵפֶר	הַיָּשָׁר:		
behold it is written	H5921	in the book	of Jasher		
H3789		H5612	H3477		

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 10:13 (Parallel theme): And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

