

2 Samuel 1:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!

Analysis

The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

הַצִּבִּי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	עַל	בְּמוֹת יָרֵךְ	חָלָל	אֶיךָ	וְנָפַל וְ
The beauty	of Israel	H5921	upon thy high places	is slain	H349	fallen
H6643	H3478		H1116	H2491		H5307

גְּבוּרִים:

how are the mighty

H1368

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 1:27 (Parallel theme): How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

2 Samuel 1:25 (Parallel theme): How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places.

Lamentations 5:16 (Parallel theme): The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!

Isaiah 4:2 (References Israel): In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Zechariah 11:7 (Parallel theme): And I will feed the flock of slaughter, even you, O poor of the flock. And I took unto me two staves; the one I called Beauty, and the other I called Bands; and I fed the flock.

Zechariah 11:10 (Parallel theme): And I took my staff, even Beauty, and cut it asunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the people.

Lamentations 2:1 (References Israel): How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, and cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger!

1 Samuel 31:8 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa.

2 Samuel 1:23 (Parallel theme): Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.