

# 2 Samuel 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance.

## Analysis

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**It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance.**

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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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## **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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יִהְיֶה יוֹם H1961	בֵּי יוֹם day H3117	וַיָּבֹא It came even to pass on the third H7992	הַשְּׁלִישִׁי י H2009	וַיֵּרָא that behold a man H376	
	וַיָּבֹא ו and so it was when he came H935	מִן הַמַּחֲנֶה out of the camp H4480	מֵעַם H5973	שָׂא וּל from Saul H7586	
	וּבְגָדָיו י with his clothes H899	קָרַע יָמָם rent H7167	וְאֶדְמָה and earth H127	עַל רֹאשׁוֹ upon his head H7218	וַיִּהְיֶה H1961
	וַיָּבֹא ו and so it was when he came H935	אֶל דָּוִד to David H413	וַיִּפֹּל that he fell H5307	אֶרְצָה to the earth H776	
	וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה and did obeisance H7812				

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 4:12** (Parallel theme): And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.

**2 Samuel 4:10** (Parallel theme): When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings:

**Joshua 7:6** (Parallel theme): And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.

**1 Samuel 25:23** (References David): And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground,

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