

2 Samuel 1:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

Analysis

Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of 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

אַשְׁקָל	וְ	בְּחֹצֶן	תְּבַשֵּׂר	וְ	בְּגַת	תְּגַזֵּעַ	אַל	אַל	תְּבַשֵּׂר	וְ	בְּגַת	תְּגַזֵּעַ	אַל	אַל	
H408	Tell	it not in Gath	H408	publish	it not in the streets	H2351	of Askelon	H831							
H5046		H1661	H1319		H2351			H831							
פְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	חַנְחָה	בְּנֵי	וְתִּשְׁמַם	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	וְתִּשְׁמַם	בְּנֵי	פְּלִשְׁתִּים	בְּנֵי	פְּנֵי	זָנָה	פְּנֵי	תְּמִלְאָה	
H6435	rejoice		H1323	lest the daughters	H6430	of the Philistines	H6435	triumph	H5937						
H8055							H6435								
בְּנֵי	וְתִּשְׁמַם	בְּנֵי	וְתִּשְׁמַם	בְּנֵי	וְתִּשְׁמַם	בְּנֵי	וְתִּשְׁמַם	בְּנֵי	וְתִּשְׁמַם	בְּנֵי	וְתִּשְׁמַם	בְּנֵי	וְתִּשְׁמַם	בְּנֵי	
לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	
H1323															
לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	לְשָׁמְרָה	
H6189															

Additional Cross-References

Micah 1:10 (Parallel theme): Declare ye it not at Gath, weep ye not at all: in the house of Aphrah roll thyself in the dust.

1 Samuel 18:6 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

Judges 11:34 (Parallel theme): And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter.

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