

2 Samuel 1:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil.

Analysis

Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

מִתְרָא	אֵל	לְטַل	אֵל	בְּגִלְבָּעָן	אֵל	בְּגִלְבָּעָן	Ye mountains
H4306	H408	H2919	H408	H1533	H408	H2022	of Gilboa
נִגְעָל	שָׁמֶךְ	בְּכִי	שָׁמֶךְ	תְּרֻמָּה	בְּכִי	תְּרֻמָּה	let there be rain
H1602	H8033	H3588	H8641	H7704	H5921	H7704	upon you nor fields
בָּל	שָׁאָל	מִגְּבָר	מִגְּבָר	יְמִינָה	מִגְּבָר	יְמִינָה	is vilely cast away
H1097	H7586	H4043	H4043	H1368	H4043	H4043	for there the shield
בְּשִׁמְעָן	בְּשִׁמְעָן	בְּשִׁמְעָן	בְּשִׁמְעָן	בְּשִׁמְעָן	בְּשִׁמְעָן	בְּשִׁמְעָן	of Saul
H8081	H8081	H4899	H4899	H4899	H4899	H4899	of the mighty
מִשְׁעָם	מִשְׁעָם	מִשְׁעָם	מִשְׁעָם	מִשְׁעָם	מִשְׁעָם	מִשְׁעָם	for there the shield
as though he had not been anointed	with oil	as though he had not been anointed	with oil	as though he had not been anointed	with oil	as though he had not been anointed	with oil
H4899	H8081	H4899	H8081	H4899	H8081	H4899	H8081

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 31:1 (Parallel theme): Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.

Isaiah 21:5 (Parallel theme): Prepare the table, watch in the watchtower, eat, drink: arise, ye princes, and anoint the shield.

1 Samuel 10:1 (Parallel theme): Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

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