

# 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

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**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

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

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

## **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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הָרֵי י	בְּגִלְבּוֹא ע	אֵל	ט ל	וְאֵל	מִטֶּר
Ye mountains	of Gilboa	H408	let there be no dew	H408	neither let there be rain
H2022	H1533		H2919		H4306
עָלֶיךָ ׀	וְשָׂדֶי י	תְּרוֹמֹת	כִּי	שָׁם	נִגְעַל
H5921	upon you nor fields	of offerings	H3588	H8033	is vilely cast away
	H7704	H8641			H1602
מִגִּן ׀	גִּבּוֹרֵי ים	מִגִּן ׀	שָׁא וְל	בֶּלִי י	
for there the shield	of the mighty	for there the shield	of Saul	H1097	
H4043	H1368	H4043	H7586		
מִשֶּׁ ים	בְּשָׁמֶן:				
as though he had not been anointed	with oil				
H4899	H8081				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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?