

2 Samuel 1:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O
Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places.

Analysis

How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

נָפְלוּ וְ	גִבּוֹרֵי יָם	בְּתוֹךְ	הַמִּלְחָמָה	יְהוֹנָתָן	עַל
H349	fallen	How are the mighty	in the midst	of the battle	O Jonathan
	H5307	H1368	H8432	H4421	H5921
				H3083	
בְּמוֹתָיִם	חָלָל:				
in thine high places	thou wast slain				
H1116	H2491				

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 1:19 (Parallel theme): The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!

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

