

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

עַל יְהוָה וְנִתְּנָה | הַמְלָכָם הִיא גָּבָר יְמִינָה וְבַת־וְרִאֵה
נִפְלֵא וְאֵין H349 fallen How are the mighty in the midst of the battle O Jonathan H5921
H5307 H1368 H8432 H4421 H3083

בָּמֹתֶת יְבָלֶל: 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!

