

# 2 Samuel 1:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

## Analysis

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**I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.**

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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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## 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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צַר	עַל יְדִי	אָחִי	יְהוֹנָתָן	נֶעֱמָת	לִי
I am distressed		for thee my brother	Jonathan	pleasant	
H6887	H0 H5921	H251	H3083	H5276	H0
מְאֹד	נִפְלְאָה תְּהֵא	מֵאֲהָבָתְךָ	לִי		
very	to me was wonderful	hast thou been unto me thy love			
H3966	H6381	H160	H0		
מֵאֲהָבָתְךָ	נָשִׁים:				
hast thou been unto me thy love	of women				
H160	H802				

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 20:41** (Parallel theme): And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.

**1 Samuel 20:17** (Love): And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

**1 Samuel 19:2** (Parallel theme): But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:

**1 Samuel 23:16** (Parallel theme): And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.

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