

2 Samuel 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto him, From whence comest thou? And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped.

Analysis

And David said unto him, From whence comest thou? And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped.

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹ	דָּוִד	אֵי	מִזֶּה	תָּב וְאֵ	וַיֹּאמֶר
said	H0	And David	H335	H2088	unto him From whence comest	said
H559		H1732			H935	H559
אֵלַי	מִמַּחֲנֵה	יִשְׂרָאֵל	נִמְלָטְתִּי:			
H413	unto him Out of the camp	of Israel	am I escaped			
	H4264	H3478	H4422			