

# 2 Samuel 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.

## Analysis

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**And David said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.**

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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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## 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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וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵל יוֹ	דָּוִד	מָה	הֵךְ הָ	הַדָּבָר
me And he answered	H413	And David	unto him How	H1961	went the matter
H559		H1732	H4100		H1697
הִגַּדְתִּי	לִי נָא	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֲשֶׁר	נָסוּ	הָעָם
I pray thee tell	H4994	me And he answered	H834	are fled	That the people
H5046	H0	H559		H5127	H5971
מִן	הַמִּלְחָמָה	וְגַם	הַרְבֵּה	נָפְלוּ	מִן
H4480	from the battle	H1571	and many	also are fallen	H4480
	H4421		H7235	H5307	That the people
					H5971
מָתוֹ:	וְגַם	שָׂא וְ	וַיְהִי־וַ	בֶּן־וְ	מָתוֹ:
and dead	H1571	and Saul	and Jonathan	his son	and dead
H4191		H7586	H3083	H1121	H4191

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 4:16** (Parallel theme): And the man said unto Eli, I am he that came out of the army, and I fled to day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son?