

# 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

בְּדַבּוּ ר	בְּנֵי הָעָם	מִתְּהִלָּה	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	מִתְּהִלָּה	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	מִתְּהִלָּה
me And he answered	me And he answered	unto him How	unto him How	unto him How	unto him How	went the matter
H559	H413	H1732	H4100	H1961	H1697	
בְּנֵי אָשָׁר						
I pray thee tell	me And he answered	me And he answered	me And he answered	are fled	are fled	That the people
H5046	H4994	H0	H559	H834	H5127	H5971
מִן בְּמָלֹךְ הַמָּלְכִּים	מִן בְּמָלֹךְ הַמָּלְכִּים	מִן בְּמָלֹךְ הַמָּלְכִּים	מִן בְּמָלֹךְ הַמָּלְכִּים	מִן בְּנֵי אָשָׁר	מִן בְּנֵי אָשָׁר	מִן בְּנֵי אָשָׁר
from the battle	and many	also are fallen	also are fallen	That the people	That the people	That the people
H4480	H1571	H7235	H5307	H4480	H5971	H5971
מַתָּהוּ בְּנֵי יִהוּנָתָן						
and dead	and Saul	and Jonathan	his son	and dead		
H4191	H1571	H7586	H3083	H1121	H4191	

## Additional Cross-References

**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?

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