

# 2 Samuel 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto the young man that told him, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?

## Analysis

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**And David said unto the young man that told him, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?**

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 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## 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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אָי אָמַר	דָּוִד	אֶל	הַנְּעָר	הַמֵּגִיד	לֹא	יֶן
said	And David	H413	unto the young man	that told	H0	H349
H559	H1732		H5288	H5046		
יֵד עֵתָּה	כִּי	מֵת	שָׂא וּל	וַיהוֹנָתָן	בְּנוֹ:	
him How knowest	H3588	be dead	thou that Saul	and Jonathan	his son	
H3045		H4191	H7586	H3083	H1121	

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