

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

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

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

אָמַר	לֵאמֹוד	בְּנֵי אָמֹר	אָמַר	לֵאמֹוד	בְּנֵי אָמֹר
said	And David	H413	unto the young man	that told	H0
H559	H1732		H5288	H5046	H349
בְּנֵי	וַיַּחֲזַק	בְּנֵי	וַיַּחֲזַק	בְּנֵי	וַיַּחֲזַק
him How knowest	H3588	be dead	H4191	thou that Saul	H7586
H3045				and Jonathan	H3083
				his son	H1121

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