

2 Samuel 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.

Analysis

And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	לֹא	בָּמָקוֹם	בְּקָרְבָּן	יָתַי
him said	And the young man	that told	by chance	As I happened	
H559	H5288	H5046	H7122	H7136	
עַל	בְּשַׁעַר	שָׁא וְלִ	וְהַיְה֙ הַגְּלֵב	בְּרִ	סְבִּית וְ
upon mount	Gilboa	H2009	behold Saul	leaned	upon his spear
H2022	H1533		H7586	H8172	H2595
וְהַיְה֙ הַדְּבָר֙ כַּאֲשֶׁר	בְּפִרְשֵׁם	וּבְעָלֵם	בְּרַכְתָּם	פָּרָשָׁת	וְהַיְה֙ הַדְּבָר֙ כַּאֲשֶׁר
H2009	and to the chariots	and horsemen	H1167	H6571	followed hard
	H7393				H1692

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 28:4 (Parallel theme): And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa.

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