

2 Samuel 11:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

Analysis

And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David and Bathsheba, emphasizing devastating consequences of sin. David's adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah represent the nadir of his reign. The Hebrew narrative's sparse, matter-of-fact reporting heightens the horror. The phrase "but the thing that David had done displeased the LORD" (v. 27) marks divine displeasure. This chapter demonstrates that even "a man after God's own heart" can fall catastrophically when neglecting spiritual disciplines and succumbing to temptation. Cross-references to Psalm 51 reveal David's repentance.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 11 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 devastating consequences of sin 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of devastating consequences of sin?
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

וַיִּקְרָא	ל	וְדָוִד	וַיֵּאָכֵל	לִפְנֵי יוֹ	וַיִּשְׁתֵּ
had called	H0	And when David	him he did eat	before	and drink
H7121		H1732	H398	H6440	H8354
וַיַּשְׁכְּרֵהוּ	וַיֵּצֵא	בַּעַרְבַּ	לִשְׁכַּב	בְּמִשְׁכְּבוֹ	עַם
him and he made him drunk	he went out	and at even	to lie	on his bed	H5973
H7937	H3318	H6153	H7901	H4904	
עֲבָדָיו	אֲדֹנָיו	וְאֶל	בֵּיתוֹ	לֹא	יָרַד:
with the servants	of his lord	H413	to his house	H3808	but went not down
H5650	H113		H1004		H3381

Additional Cross-References

Habakkuk 2:15 (Parallel theme): Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

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