

2 Samuel 11:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה י	יֹאֵבָב	הָעִיר יְרֵאֵל	וַיִּתֵּן		
H1961 observed H8104	And it came to pass when Joab	H413 the city H5892	that he assigned H5414		
אֶת	אֶל	אֶשֶׁר	יָדַע	כִּי	אֲנִשִּׁי
H853 Uriah H223	H413 unto a place H4725	H834 where he knew H3045	H3588	H376	
חַיִּל	שֵׁם:				
that valiant H2428	H8033				