

2 Samuel 11:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

Analysis

And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

לְעַת תִּוָּהִי	וְבָאָרֶב	מִעַל	בֵּית	וַיַּרְא
H1961	H6256	And it came to pass in an eveningtide	H6153	arose
				H6965
				that David
				H5921
מִשְׁכָּבָן	וַיֵּתְהַלֵּךְ	הַגְּגָה	הַבַּיִת	בְּמִלְחָמָה
from off his bed	and walked	and from the roof	house	of the king's
H4904	H1980	H5921	H1004	H4428
וְבָשָׁר אֶשְׁתָּה	וְבָשָׁר אֶשְׁתָּה	וְבָשָׁר אֶשְׁתָּה	וְבָשָׁר אֶשְׁתָּה	וְבָשָׁר אֶשְׁתָּה
a woman	washing	and from the roof	a woman	beautiful
H802	H7364	H5921	H802	H2896
מִאֵן	מִאֵן	מִאֵן	מִאֵן	מִאֵן
to look upon	was very			
H4758	H3966			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 5:28 (Parallel theme): But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Psalms 119:37 (Parallel theme): Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

Acts 10:9 (Parallel theme): On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

Job 31:1 (Parallel theme): I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

Proverbs 6:25 (Parallel theme): Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

1 John 2:16 (Parallel theme): For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Proverbs 31:30 (Parallel theme): Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

Genesis 3:6 (Parallel theme): And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Deuteronomy 22:8 (Parallel theme): When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence.

1 Peter 4:7 (Parallel theme): But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

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