

2 Samuel 11:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

Analysis

Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| מִי | הִכָּה | אֶת | אֲבִימֶלֶךְ | בֶּן | יֶרֶבְשָׁת | הַלֹּא |
| H4310 | Who smote | H853 | Abimelech | the son | of Jerubbesheth | H3808 |
| | H5221 | | H40 | H1121 | H3380 | |
| | אִשָּׁה | הִשְׁלִיכָהּ | עָלָיו | פֶּלֶא | כֶּבֶל | הַחֹמֶה |
| did not a woman | cast | H5921 | a piece | of a millstone | H5921 | the wall |
| H802 | H7993 | | H6400 | H7393 | | H2346 |
| מָתָּ: | בְּתֵבֶז | לָמָּה | נִגְשַׁתְּ מִ | אֶל | הַחֹמֶה | וְאָמַרְתָּ |
| is dead | in Thebez | H4100 | why went ye nigh | H413 | the wall | then say |
| H4191 | H8405 | | H5066 | | H2346 | H559 |
| גִּמְ | עַבְדְּךָ | אֱוִירִי | הַחִתִּי | מָתָּ: | | |
| H1571 | thou Thy servant | Uriah | the Hittite | is dead | | |
| | H5650 | H223 | H2850 | H4191 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Judges 7:1 (Parallel theme): Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

2 Samuel 3:27 (Parallel theme): And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

2 Samuel 3:34 (Parallel theme): Thy hands were not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou. And all the people wept again over him.

Judges 6:32 (Parallel theme): Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.