

# 2 Samuel 11:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

## Analysis

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**Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.**

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

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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**

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## **Study Questions**

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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

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תֹּאמַר ר	דָּוִד	אֶל	הַמַּלְאָךְ	כֹּה	תֹּאמַר ר	
Thus shalt thou say	Then David	H413	unto the messenger	H3541	Thus shalt thou say	
H559	H1732		H4397		H559	
אֶל	יֹאבָב	אֵל	יִבַּע	אֶת	הַדָּבָר	הַזֶּה
H413	unto Joab	H408	displease	H5869	H853	H2088
	H3097		H3415		Let not this thing	H1697
כִּי	כַּזֶּה	וְכַזֶּה	תֹּאכַל	הֶחָרֶב		
H3588	one as well as another	H2088	devoureth	thee for the sword		
	H2090		H398	H2719		
וְהִזְקִיחַ:	מִלְחַמָּתְךָ	אֶל	הָעִיר	וְהִרְסָהּ		
it and encourage	make thy battle	H413	against the city	and overthrow		
H2388	H4421		H5892	H2040		
וְהִזְקִיחַ:						
it and encourage						
H2388						