

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

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

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of 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

תָּאָמַר רָ	תָּאָמַר רָ	כִּי דִי דָ	אֶל	כִּי דָ	אֶל	כִּי דָ	תָּאָמַר רָ	תָּאָמַר רָ
Thus shalt thou say	Then David	H413	unto the messenger	H3541	Thus shalt thou say	H559		
H559	H1732		H4397		H3541			
אֶל	אֶל	יְוָאֵב	אֶל	עַ	אֶת בְּעֵינֵי יְה	אֶת	בְּעֵינֵי יְה	בְּעֵינֵי יְה
H413	unto Joab	H408	displease	H3415	H5869	H853	Let not this thing	H2088
H3097							H1697	
כִּי	כִּי	ה	כִּי ה	כִּי ה	תָּאָכַל	תָּאָכַל	כִּי	כִּי
H3588	one as well as another	H2090	H2088	H398	devoureth	thee for the sword	H2719	
וְבָרַךְ הָ	וְבָרַךְ הָ	עַ	ירָ	אֶל	מְלִכְמָתָב	וְבָזְקָהָ	וְבָזְקָהָ	וְבָזְקָהָ
it and encourage	make thy battle	H4421	H413	H5892	against the city	and overthrow	H2040	
H2388								
וְבָזְקָהָ								
it and encourage		H2388						

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org