

2 Samuel 11:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

Analysis

And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form 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

וַתִּשְׁמַע

heard
H8085

אֵת אִשְׁתּוֹ

And when the wife
H802

אֶל אִרְיָה

of Uriah
H223

כִּי

H3588

מָתָה

was dead
H4191

אֶל אִרְיָה

of Uriah
H223

אִשְׁתּוֹ הָאֵשֶׁת

her husband
H376

וַתִּסְפֹּד

she mourned
H5594

עַל

H5921

בְּעֻלָּהּ:

for her husband
H1167