

2 Samuel 11:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

Analysis

And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וַיִּשְׁלַח	דָּוִד	מַלְאָכָיו	וַתֵּקֶחַ	וַתָּבֹא	אֵלָיו
sent	And David	messengers	and took	her and she came in	H413
H7971	H1732	H4397	H3947	H935	

וַיִּשָּׁכַב	וְהָיָה	מִתְקַדֶּשֶׁת
unto him and he lay	H5973	H1931
H7901		H6942

מִטְמְאָתָהּ	וַתָּשָׁב	אֶל	בֵּיתָהּ:
from her uncleanness	and she returned	H413	unto her house
H2932	H7725		H1004

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 18:19 (Parallel theme): Also thou shalt not approach unto a woman to uncover her nakedness, as long as she is put apart for her uncleanness.

Proverbs 30:20 (Parallel theme): Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.

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