

2 Samuel 12:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

Analysis

And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Nathan's Rebuke, emphasizing conviction, repentance, consequences. Nathan's prophetic confrontation using parable demonstrates effective rebuke methodology. David's immediate repentance ("I have sinned against the LORD") contrasts with Saul's defensive self-justification. The child's death demonstrates that forgiveness doesn't eliminate all consequences. Theological themes include God's hatred of sin, the necessity of repentance, the distinction between eternal and temporal consequences, and God's grace that continues despite devastating sin.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 12 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 conviction, repentance, consequences 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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 conviction, repentance, consequences?
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

פִּי לְדָבָר אֶת יְהָנֵן הַלְּבָדָן
And Nathan unto his house struck And the LORD the child
H1980 H413 H1004 H5062 H3068 H853 H3206

אֲשֶׁת לְדִי דָבָר אֲשֶׁר
that Uriah's unto David and it was very sick
H834 H3205 H802 H223 H1732 H605

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 25:38 (References Lord): And it came to pass about ten days after, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died.

Psalms 104:29 (Parallel theme): Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

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