

2 Samuel 12:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

Analysis

David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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

וַיִּבְקֶשׁ	דָּוִד	אֶת	הָאֱלֹהִים	בְּעַד	הַנַּעַר	וַיִּצְם
therefore besought	David	H853	God	H1157	for the child	fasted
H1245	H1732		H430		H5288	H6684
דָּוִד	צָוָם	וַיֵּלֶךְ	וְלַיְלָה	וַיִּשְׁכַּב	אֲרָצָה:	
David	H6685	and went in	all night	and lay	upon the earth	
H1732		H935	H3885	H7901	H776	

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 13:31 (Parallel theme): Then the king arose, and tare his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with their clothes rent.

Acts 9:9 (Parallel theme): And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

Isaiah 22:12 (References God): And in that day did the Lord GOD of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth:

Isaiah 26:16 (Parallel theme): LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them.

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Psalms 69:10 (Parallel theme): When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach.

Jonah 3:9 (References God): Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

1 Kings 21:27 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly.

2 Samuel 12:22 (References God): And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

Esther 4:16 (Parallel theme): Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.