

2 Samuel 12:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

Analysis

And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

לְהַקִּימוֹ	זִקְנֵי	בֵּיתוֹ	עַל יוֹ
and went to him to raise him up	And the elders	of his house	
H6965	H2205	H1004	H5921
לְהַקִּימוֹ	מִן	הָאָרֶץ	וְלֹא
and went to him to raise him up		from the earth	but he would
H6965	H4480	H776	H3808
וְלֹא	אָכַל	הָ	לֶחֶם:
			bread
not neither did he eat	אֶת		
H1262	H854		H3899

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 3:35 (Parallel theme): And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat while it was yet day, David sware, saying, So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or ought else, till the sun be down.

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