

## 2 Samuel 12:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

### Analysis

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**And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?**

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

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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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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בַּיּוֹם שְׁבִיעַ וְיֶהוּ  
H1961 day And it came to pass on the seventh H7637  
H3117

מֵת קִדְשָׁה  
died Behold while the child  
H4191 H3206

מֵת כִּי לְמִלְחָמָה עָבֵד  
died  
H3588  
H4191

מֵת כִּי לְמִלְחָמָה עָבֵד  
feared And the servants of David to tell  
H3372 H5650 H1732 H5046 H0 H3588  
H1961

בַּיּוֹם שְׁבִיעַ נָאָמָר  
Behold while the child H3588 for they said H2009  
H3206 H559 H1961  
בַּיּוֹם שְׁבִיעַ נָאָמָר  
Behold while the child H3206

שָׁמַע אֶלְיוֹן דָּבָר  
unto him and he would not hearken  
was yet alive we spake H413 H3808 H8085  
H2416 H1696

מֵת אֶלְיוֹן נָאָמָר  
unto our voice H349 for they said H413  
H6963 H559 H4191  
מֵת אֶלְיוֹן נָאָמָר  
Behold while the child H3206

בְּעֵהֶב וְעֵשֶׂב  
himself vex  
H6213 H7451

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