

# 2 Samuel 12:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

## Analysis

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**But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.**

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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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## 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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וְעַתָּה	מֵת	לְפָנֶיךָ	אָתָּה	זֶה	אָתָּה	זֶה
H6258	<b>But now he is dead</b>	H4100	H2088	H589	<b>wherefore should I fast</b>	H6684
	H4191					
בָּאָמַר	בְּשֵׁבֶת	עַד	אָנָּה	הַלְּךָ	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה
can	<b>I bring him back again</b>	H5750	H589	H413	H1931	
H3201	H7725			H1980		
אָלָכְךָ	בְּשֵׁבֶת	אָלָכְךָ				
H3808	<b>I bring him back again</b>	H413				
	H7725					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 37:35** (Parallel theme): And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

**Job 30:23** (Parallel theme): For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living.

**Luke 23:43** (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

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