

2 Samuel 12:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

Analysis

But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

אֶם	תִּכְבֹּשׁ	הָאִם	כִּי	כִּל	אֵין	וְלֹכֶד	שָׁ
But the poor	H369	H3605	H3588	H518	ewe lamb	man had nothing save one	
	H7326				H3535		H259
עַמְּךָ	וְ	לִתְגַּדֵּל	וְ	לִתְנַזֵּן	וְ	לִתְנַזֵּן	וְ
little	H834	which he had bought	and nourished up	and it grew up			H5973
H6996		H7069		H2421		H1431	
וְעַמְּךָ	וְ	בְּנֵי	וְ	יְחִידָה	וְ	מִפְתָּח	וְ
with him and with his children		together	of his own meat	it did eat			
H5973		H1121		H3162		H6595	
לְ	וְ	וְתַהֲרֵי	וְתַשְּׁכַּב	וְבְחִיקָה	וְ	וְמִכְסָה	וְ
of his own cup	and drank	in his bosom	and lay				
H3563	H8354	H2436	H7901	H1961	H0		
פָּתַת:							
and was unto him as a daughter							
	H1323						

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 11:3 (Parallel theme): And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bath-sheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

Micah 7:5 (Parallel theme): Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.