

2 Samuel 12:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

Analysis

And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

וְאֵשׁ רַעֲיָה	עַל קֶבֶד	אַרְבַּעַת יָמִים	יִשְׁלַח	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה
H853	H6118	H706	H7999	H3535	H853
and because	because	fourfold	And he shall restore	the lamb	he did
H834	H6118	H706	H7999	H3535	H6213
וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה
H853	H853	H853	H853	H853	H853
this thing	this thing	this thing	this thing	this thing	this thing
H1697	H1697	H1697	H1697	H1697	H1697
וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה
H2088	H2088	H2088	H2088	H2088	H2088
he had no pity	he had no pity	he had no pity	he had no pity	he had no pity	he had no pity
H2550	H2550	H2550	H2550	H2550	H2550

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 22:1 (Parallel theme): If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.

Proverbs 6:31 (Parallel theme): But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

Luke 19:8 (Parallel theme): And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

James 2:13 (Parallel theme): For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

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