

2 Samuel 12:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

Analysis

Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

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

מַדּוּעַ	בְּזַיְתָּה	אַתָּה	דָּבָר	הִנֵּה
H4069	Wherefore hast thou despised	H853	the commandment	of the LORD
	H959		H1697	H3068
לְעֹשֵׂה וְתַ	פָּרָעָה בְּעֵינָיו	אָוֹרֵה אַתָּה	פָּחָתִי	הָכֵת בָּתְתָּה
to do	evil	in his sight	H853	the Hittite
H6213	H7451	H5869	Uriah	H2850
			H223	H5221
וְתַּבְּכֵה כִּי	לְאַשְׁה וְאַתָּה	לְקַחְתָּם	לְבָתְתָּה	וְתַּבְּכֵה כִּי
him with the sword	H853	his wife	and hast taken	H853
H2719		H802	H3947	H802
כִּי גַתְתָּה	בְּנֵי	עֲמֹתָה:		
and hast slain	him with the sword	of the children	of Ammon	
H2026	H2719	H1121	H5983	

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 15:19 (Evil): Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

Psalms 90:8 (Parallel theme): Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

Jeremiah 18:10 (Evil): If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.

Amos 2:4 (Word): Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:

1 Samuel 15:23 (Word): For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Isaiah 5:24 (Word): Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

2 Samuel 11:4 (Parallel theme): And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

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