

2 Samuel 13:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.

Analysis

And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Amnon and Tamar, emphasizing unresolved sin, family breakdown. Amnon's rape of Tamar and Absalom's revenge illustrate how unresolved sin metastasizes into family-wide dysfunction. David's failure to discipline Amnon (possibly from guilt over his own sexual sin) enabled further tragedy. Hebrew terminology emphasizes Tamar's desolation and Absalom's calculated hatred. The narrative demonstrates intergenerational sin consequences and the necessity of proper justice administration.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 13 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 unresolved sin, family breakdown 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of unresolved sin, family breakdown?
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

וַיְהִי	אַחֲרֵי	וְלֹא בָּשָׁל	וְמִצְרָיִם	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן
H1961	And it came to pass after	H3651	this that Absalom	H53	the son	H1121	of David
	H310		H53		H1121		H1732
וְתִתְחַנֵּן	בְּנֵי	וְתִתְחַנֵּן	בְּנֵי	וְתִתְחַנֵּן	בְּנֵי	וְתִתְחַנֵּן	בְּנֵי
sister	had a fair	whose name	was Tamar	loved	and Amnon	the son	
H269	H3303	H8034	H8559	H157	H550	H1121	
בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי
of David							
H1732							

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 3:9 (References David): These were all the sons of David, beside the sons of the concubines, and Tamar their sister.

1 Chronicles 3:2 (Parallel theme): The third, Absalom the son of Maachah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur: the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith:

2 Samuel 13:15 (Love): Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.

2 Samuel 14:27 (Parallel theme): And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar: she was a woman of a fair countenance.

Proverbs 6:25 (Parallel theme): Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

Proverbs 31:30 (Parallel theme): Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

Genesis 29:20 (Love): And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.

Genesis 29:18 (Love): And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

Genesis 6:2 (Parallel theme): That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Genesis 34:3 (Love): And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spake kindly unto the damsel.