

2 Samuel 13:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

Analysis

And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

הָאֲמִינָה וְאֶל אֲחִיהָ אֶבְשָׁל וְיֵי אָמַר
unto her Hath Amnon he is thy brother said
H550 H251 H53 H413 H559

אָחוֹתִי וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה עִמָּךְ הִנֵּה אֲחִיהָ
my sister he is thy brother
H269 H6258 H5973 H1961 H251

תִּשָּׁא יָדֶיךָ אֶל הָוָא אֲחִיהָ הִנֵּה יָשָׁא
regard he is thy brother been with thee but hold now thy peace
H7896 H408 H1931 H251 H2790

בֵּית וְשֵׁן מִמֶּה הִנֵּה תָמַר וְתִשָּׁב הִנֵּה רָלָדָה לֵבָי אֶת
house remained So Tamar not this thing
H1004 H8076 H8559 H3427 H2088 H1697 H853 H3820

אֶבְשָׁל וְאֶל אֲחִיהָ
Absalom's he is thy brother
H53 H251