

# 2 Samuel 13:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal-hazor, which is beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

## Analysis

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**And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal-hazor, which is beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons.**

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

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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

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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|                         |                                    |                   |                         |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| לְשָׁנָת יָמִים וְיָהִי | יָמֵי יָמִים                       | וְיָהִי וְ        | גֹזְזִים                |
| H1961                   |                                    | H1961             |                         |
| years                   | And it came to pass after two full | had sheepshearers |                         |
| H8141                   | H3117                              |                   | H1494                   |
| וְאֶבְשָׁל וְ           | בְּבַּעַלְחָצֹר                    | עִם אֲשֶׁר רַ     | אֶפְרַיִם יָמִים        |
|                         |                                    |                   |                         |
| and Absalom             | in Baalhazor                       |                   | which is beside Ephraim |
| H53                     | H1178                              | H834 H5973        | H669                    |
| וְיָקָרְ אֶבְשָׁל וְ    | לְכָל בְּנֵי יְהוֹשָׁפָט           | הַמֶּלֶךְ:        |                         |
|                         |                                    |                   |                         |
| invited                 | and Absalom                        | sons              | all the king's          |
| H7121                   | H53                                | H3605 H1121       | H4428                   |

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 25:4** (Parallel theme): And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep.

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