

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

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

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 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

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

גָּזָבִים תְּהִלִּים יְמִים יְמִינָת יְמִינָה לְשָׁנָת יְמִינָה
H1961 years H8141 And it came to pass after two full H3117 H1961 had sheepshearers H1494

אֶפְרַיִם אֶבְשָׁל וּמָם עַם אֶשְׁר רַחַץ וּרְבָב עַל אֶבְשָׁל וּמָם
and Absalom H0 in Baalhazor H834 H5973 which is beside Ephraim H669

הַמְּלָה: בָּנִים אֶבְשָׁל וּמָם יְהִקְרָא
invited and Absalom H3605 sons all the king's H1121 H4428

Additional Cross-References

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

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