2 Samuel 13:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant.

Analysis

Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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

נָ א רְ א וְאָמַרְתִּ י נְעָרָ יו אֶת אַבְשָׁל וֹם צִוָּ יתִי

H4994 — Mark (H7200) — and when I say (H559) — his servants (H5288) — H853 — Now Absalom (H53) — had commanded (H6680)

הַכּ וּ אֲלֵיכֶ ם וְאָמַרְתִּ י בַּיַּ ין אַמְנ וֹן לֵב כְּט וֹב is merry

unto you Smite (H5221) — H413 — and when I say (H559) — with wine (H3196) — Amnon (H550) — heart (H3820) — is merry (H2896)

אָנֹכִי כִּ י הֲל וֹא תִּירָ אוּ אַל אֹת וֹ וַהֲמִתֶּ ם אַמְנ וֹן אֶת

H595 — H3588 — H3808 — him fear (H3372) — H408 — H853 — then kill (H4191) — Amnon (H550) — H853

חָיִל: לִבְנֵי וִהְי וּ חִזְק וּ אֶתְכֶ ם צִוָּ יתִי

H2428 — and be valiant (H1121) — H1961 — you be courageous (H2388) — H853 — had commanded (H6680)

Additional Cross-References

Judges 19:6 (Parallel theme): And they sat down, and did eat and drink both of them together: for the damsel's father had said unto the man, Be content, I pray thee, and tarry all night, and let thine heart be merry.

Judges 19:22 (Parallel theme): Now as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, beset the house round about, and beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him.

Judges 19:9 (Parallel theme): And when the man rose up to depart, he, and his concubine, and his servant, his father in law, the damsel's father, said unto him, Behold, now the day draweth toward evening, I pray you tarry all night: behold, the day groweth to an end, lodge here, that thine heart may be merry; and to morrow get you early on your way, that thou mayest go home.

Ruth 3:7 (Parallel theme): And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down.