

2 Samuel 13:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Absalom fled. And the young man that kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came much people by the way of the hill side behind him.

Analysis

But Absalom fled. And the young man that kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came much people by the way of the hill side behind him.

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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וָיָחַד ח	אֲבִשָׁל וּמִ	וַיִּשָּׂא א	הַנַּעַר	הַצִּפּוֹה	אֶת
fled	But Absalom	lifted up	And the young man	that kept the watch	H853
H1272	H53	H5375	H5288	H6822	
עֵינָיו	וַיִּרְא	וְהִנֵּה ה	עַם	רַב	הֵלֵךְ יָם
his eyes	and looked	H2009	people	much	and behold there came
H5869	H7200		H5971	H7227	H1980
					בַּדֶּרֶךְ
					by the way
					H1870
אֲחֵרֵי יוֹ	מֵצֵד	הַהָרִים:			
behind	side	of the hill			
H310	H6654	H2022			