

2 Samuel 13:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.

Analysis

And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

בֶּן יָד ל כָּ כָה אֶתָה מִדַּ וַע ל וּ וַי אָמַר
And he said H0 H4069 H859 H3602 **lean son**
H559 H1800 H1121

הֵל וְא בִּב קָר בִּב קָר הֵמָּ לָךְ
unto him Why art thou being the king's **from day** **from day** H3808
H4428 H1242 H1242

אָח וְת תָּמָר אֶת אֲמֹנ וֹן לוֹ וַי אָמַר לִי תִגַּד יִד
wilt thou not tell H0 **And he said** H0 **me And Amnon** H853 **Tamar** **sister**
H5046 H559 H550 H8559 H269

אֶהָבִי אֲנִי אָחִי אֲבִשָּׁל ׀
unto him I love H589 **Absalom's** **my brother**
H157 H53 H251