

2 Samuel 13:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand.

Analysis

And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand.

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

מִשְׁכַּבְךָ עַל אָמְרָתִךְ
said H0 And Jonadab unto him Lay thee down H5921 on thy bed H4904

אָמְרָתִךְ לְהַתְּפִלָּה וְתָבֹא אֶבְיוֹן אָרְאָה הַיְלָדָה
and make thyself sick come and when thy father that I may see said
H2470 H935 H1 H7200 H559

וְתָבֹא אֶלְיוֹן אֶחָזָתִךְ וְתָבֹא אֶלְיוֹן
come H4994 Tamar unto him I pray thee let my sister and give
H935 H8559 H269 H1262

אֲשֶׁר לֹמַעַת הַלְּקָם
me meat and dress in my sight H853 the meat H4616 H834

מִלְחָמָה אֲכַלְתִּי אָרְאָה הַיְלָדָה
that I may see it and eat it at her hand H3027

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