

2 Samuel 18:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

Analysis

And David numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Absalom's Death, emphasizing tragedy of rebellion. Absalom's death despite David's orders demonstrates the tragic consequences of rebellion against God's anointed. The graphic description of Absalom caught in oak branches suggests divine judgment. David's overwhelming grief ("O my son Absalom") reveals parental love even for rebellious children. Theological themes include the tragedy of rebellion, the reality that sin leads to death, parental love's persistence, and the danger of prioritizing family over kingdom responsibilities.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 18 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 tragedy of rebellion 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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of tragedy of rebellion?
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

וּנְיָקָן דַּ	וְדָוִד	אֶת	הָעָם	אֲשֶׁר	אֶת
numbered	And David		the people		
H6485	H1732	H853	H5971	H834	H854
וְיָשָׁם	עֲלֵיהֶם	וְאֲשֶׁר	אֲלֶפֶת	וְאֲשֶׁר	
that were with him and set		and captains	of thousands	and captains	
H7760	H5921	H8269	H505	H8269	
מֵאוֹת:					
of hundreds					
H3967					