

2 Samuel 18:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.

Analysis

And a certain man saw it, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak.

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

הִנֵּה	וַיֹּאמֶר	לְיוֹאָב	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֶחָד	אִישׁ	רָא יָתִי
H2009	and said	Joab	it and told	And a certain	man	Behold I saw
	H559	H3097	H5046	H259	H376	H7200
בְּאֵלֶּה:	תָּלַּהּ	וַיִּתְּן	אֶבְשָׁלֹם	אֶת	רָא יָתִי	
in an oak	hanged	Absalom	Behold I saw			
H424	H8518	H53	H7200			