

2 Samuel 18:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten shekels of silver, and a girdle.

Analysis

And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest him, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten shekels of silver, and a girdle.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| וַיֹּאמֶר | יֹאבָב | לְאִישׁ | הַמֵּגִיד | לֹ | וְהִנֵּה |
| said | And Joab | unto the man | that told | H0 | H2009 |
| H559 | H3097 | H376 | H5046 | | |
| רָא יָתְ | וַמַּדּוּעַ | לָא | הָכִיתִי | וְ | שָׁמָּה |
| him And behold thou sawest | H4069 | H3808 | him and why didst thou not smite | | H8033 |
| H7200 | | | H5221 | | |
| אֶרְצָהּ | וְעַלִּי | לָתֶת | לְךָ | עָשִׂיתָ | לָהּ |
| him there to the ground | H5921 | and I would have given | H0 | | |
| H776 | | H5414 | | | H6235 |
| כֶּסֶף | וְחִגְגָּהּ | אֶתְּ: | | | |
| shekels of silver | girdle | and a | | | |
| H3701 | H2290 | H259 | | | |

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