

2 Samuel 18:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom.

Analysis

And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand shekels of silver in mine hand, yet would I not put forth mine hand against the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none touch the young man Absalom.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

עַל	שֶׁקֶל ל	אָנֹכִי י	וְלֹא א	יֹאב ב	אֶל	הָאִישׁ	לָאמַר ר
H5921	I should receive	H595	Though	H3097	H413	And the man	said
	H8254		H3863			H376	H559
אֲשֶׁל ח	לֹא	כֶּסֶף	אֶלָּא	כִּפִּי			
yet would I not put forth	H3808	shekels of silver	a thousand	in mine hand			
H7971		H3701	H505	H3709			
צָוָה	בְּאָזְנֵינוּ	כִּי י	הֵמָּלָךְ	בֶּן	אֶל	יְדִי	
charged	for in our hearing	H3588	against the king's	son	H413	mine hand	
H6680	H241		H4428	H1121		H3027	
לָאמַר ר	אִתִּי	וְאֵת	אֲבִישׁ י	וְאֵת	אֶתְּךָ	הֵמָּלָךְ	
said	and Ittai	H853	thee and Abishai	H853	H853	against the king's	
H559	H863		H52			H4428	
בְּאַבְשָׁלוֹם:	בֶּן עַר	מִי	שְׁמָרוּ				
Absalom	that none touch the young man	H4310	Beware				
H53	H5288		H8104				