

2 Samuel 18:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.

Analysis

Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

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	יֹאבִב	לֹא	כִּי	אֶחָד יֵלֶה	לִפְנֵי יְיָ	וַיִּקַּח
Then said	Joab			I may not tarry	thus with thee	And he took
H559	H3097	H3808	H3651	H3176	H6440	H3947

שְׁלֹשָׁה	שֶׁבַע יָמִים	בְּכַף יָדוֹ	וַיִּתְקַעֵם	בְּלִבָּם
three	darts	in his hand	and thrust	them through the heart
H7969	H7626	H3709	H8628	H3820

עוֹד נֹכַח	וְאֶבְשָׁל חַי	בְּלִבָּם
of Absalom	while he was yet alive	them through the heart
H53	H5750	H3820
	H2416	

הָאֵלֶּה:

in the midst of the oak

H424

