

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

וְאָמַר יְהוָה אֶתְּנָא בְּלֹא כִּי לֹא יָמַד יְהוָה
Then said **Joab** H3808 H3651 **I may not tarry** H3176 **thus with thee** H6440 **And he took** H3947

שְׁלַש הַשְׁבָט יְמִינְתְּקַעַם בְּכֶפֶר וְשְׁבָט יְמִינְתְּקַעַם בְּלֹב
three **darts** H7969 H7626 **in his hand** H3709 **and thrust** H8628 **them through the heart** H3820

וְאַבְשֵׁל וְעַזְׂדֵה אֶתְּנָא בְּלֹא כִּי
of Absalom H5750 **while he was yet alive** H2416 **them through the heart** H3820

בְּאֶלְעָלָה:
in the midst of the oak H424

