

2 Samuel 18:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead.

Analysis

And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for 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

בְּשַׁךְ הַ	אַתָּה	אִישׁ	לֹא	יָוָא בְּ	לִ	אָמַר
shalt not bear tidings	H859					
said	H0	And Joab	H3808	unto him Thou		
H559		H3097		H376		
				H1309		
וּמָם יְבִרְכֶּךְ						
יבְּרִכְתָּךְ רְ						
but this day	H2088	but thou shalt bear tidings	H1319	but this day	H3117	another
H3117			H1319		H312	H3117
בְּזַהֲהַ						
לְאַלְפִּים						
לְאַלְפִּים	H2088	but thou shalt bear tidings	H3588	לְעַל	H5921	son
H3808		H1319		פִּ		because the king's
				בְּן	H1121	H4428
מַתְ:						
is dead						
H4191						

