

# 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

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**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

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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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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אָמַר	לֹא	יֹאבֵב	אֵל	בְּשִׁיחַ	אֶתְּ
<b>said</b>		<b>And Joab</b>	<b>unto him Thou</b>	<b>shalt not bear tidings</b>	
H559		H3097	H376	H1309	H859
וְהַיּוֹם	הַזֶּה	תְּבַשִּׁי	וְהַיּוֹם	אֲחֵר	וְהַיּוֹם
<b>but this day</b>		<b>but thou shalt bear tidings</b>	<b>but this day</b>	<b>another</b>	<b>but this day</b>
H3117	H2088	H1319	H3117	H312	H3117
הַזֶּה	לֹא	תְּבַשִּׁי	כִּי	בֶן	הַמֶּלֶךְ
H2088	H3808	<b>but thou shalt bear tidings</b>		<b>son</b>	<b>because the king's</b>
		H1319	H3588	H1121	H4428
מֵת:					
<b>is dead</b>					
H4191					

