

2 Samuel 18:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But howsoever, said he, let me run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and overran Cushi.

Analysis

But howsoever, said he, let me run. And he said unto him, Run. Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the plain, and overran Cushi.

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

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 – God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 – The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of tragedy or 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

ל וְ אָמַר בְּצָרְבָּה מְהִי H1961 H4100 But howsoever said he let me run H7223 H5550 And he said H0

אֲחִים עַז
יְהִי בָּז
But howsoever said he let me run
H7323
But howsoever said he let me run
H7323
Then Ahimaaz
H290

בְּכָשִׁי	אֶת	פִּישְׁבָּר	פִּיכְבָּר	דְּרָר
by the way	of the plain	and overran	H853	Cushi

