

2 Samuel 18:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold another man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings.

Analysis

And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold another man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|
| וַיֵּרָא | הַצֹּפֶה | אֵן יֵשׁ | אַחֵר | כָּץ | וַיִּקְרָא |
| saw | And the watchman | Behold another man | another | running | called |
| H7200 | H6822 | H376 | H312 | H7323 | H7121 |
| הַצֹּפֶה | אֶל | הַשָּׂעֵר | וַיֹּאמֶר | הִנֵּה | אֵן יֵשׁ |
| And the watchman | H413 | unto the porter | and said | H2009 | Behold another man |
| H6822 | | H7778 | H559 | | H376 |
| כָּץ | לְבַדּוֹ | וַיֹּאמֶר | הֵמָּלָךְ | גַּם | זֶה |
| running | H905 | and said | alone And the king | H1571 | H2088 |
| H7323 | | H559 | H4428 | | |
| מִבִּשָּׁר: | | | | | |
| He also bringeth tidings | | | | | |
| H1319 | | | | | |

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