

2 Samuel 18:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good man, and cometh with good tidings.

Analysis

And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He is a good man, and cometh with good 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

יְאָמַר	הַצֹּפֵן	אָנָּא	רָאָה	אָתָּה	כְּמַרְצֵת	תִּשְׁמַרְצֵת
said	And the watchman	H589	Me thinketh	H853	is like the running	H4794
H559	H6822		H7200		H4794	
וְאַחֲרֵי	כְּמַרְצֵת	עֵזֶר	בֶּן	בֶּן	אֶלְעָזָר	אָמַר
of the foremost	is like the running	of Ahimaaz	the son	of Zadok	said	
H7223	H4794	H290	H1121	H6659	H559	
וְאַיִשָּׁר	טוֹב	וְאֶל	טוֹב	בְּשׂוֹבֵב	טוֹב	טוֹב
And the king	man	He is a good	H2088	H413	tidings	He is a good
H4428	H376	H2896			H1309	H2896
וְאַבְזָא:						
and cometh						
	H935					

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 9:20 (Parallel theme): And the watchman told, saying, He came even unto them, and cometh not again: and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi; for he driveth furiously.

1 Kings 1:42 (Good): And while he yet spake, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came: and Adonijah said unto him, Come in; for thou art a valiant man, and bringest good tidings.

Romans 10:15 (Good): And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!