

# 2 Samuel 18:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and me thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was.

## Analysis

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**And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and me thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was.**

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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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## 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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וַיֹּאמֶר	הִמָּלֵךְ	שָׁלֹם	לְנֶעֱר	לְאַבְשָׁל וְ	וַיֹּאמֶר
answered	And the king	safe	Is the young man	Absalom	answered
H559	H4428	H7965	H5288	H53	H559
אֲחִימָאֵז	רָאִיתִי	הִתְחַל	הַגָּד וְ	אֶת לְשָׁלֹחַ	עִבְדְּךָ
And Ahimaaz	I saw	tumult	a great	sent	and me thy servant
H290	H7200	H1995	H1419	H7971	H5650
הִמָּלֵךְ	יֹאבֵד	וְאֶת	עִבְדְּךָ	וְלֹא	יָדַעְתִּי
And the king	When Joab	H853	and me thy servant	H3808	but I knew
H4428	H3097		H5650		H3045
					H4100

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 18:22** (Parallel theme): Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok yet again to Joab, But howsoever, let me, I pray thee, also run after Cush. And Joab said, Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready?