

2 Samuel 18:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said unto Cush, Is the young man Absalom safe?
And Cush answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all
that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.

Analysis

And the king said unto Cush, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cush answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

כֵּן עַר	הַשָּׁלֹם וְ	הַכּוֹשׁ י	אֶל	הִמָּלֵךְ	וַיֹּאמֶר
Is the young man	safe	And Cushi	^{H413}	And the king	answered
H5288	H7965	H3569		H4428	H559
אֹיְבָיו	כֵּן עַר	וַיְהִי וְ	הַכּוֹשׁ י	וַיֹּאמֶר	לְאַבְשָׁל וְ
The enemies	Is the young man	^{H1961}	And Cushi	answered	Absalom
H341	H5288		H3569	H559	H53
עַל יָב	קָמוּ	אֲשֶׁר	וְכָל	הִמָּלֵךְ	אֲדֹנָי
and all that rise	and all that rise			And the king	of my lord
H5921	H6965	H834	H3605	H4428	H113
לְרָעָה:					
against thee to do thee hurt					
H7451					

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 25:26 (References Lord): Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

Judges 5:31 (References Lord): So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years.

Daniel 4:19 (Kingdom): Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.

2 Samuel 18:29 (Kingdom): 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.