

2 Samuel 18:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

Analysis

And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וְרַגַּז ז	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וַיַּעַל	עַל	עַל־יָת	הַשַּׁעַר
was much moved	And the king	and went up	H5921	to the chamber	over the gate
H7264	H4428	H5927		H5944	H8179
וַיִּבְךְּ	וְכִהָא	אָמַר	בְּלָכֶת ו	בְּנִי:	אַבְשָׁל וּם
and wept	H3541	thus he said	H1980	O my son	Absalom
H1058		H559		H1121	H53
בְּנִי:	אַבְשָׁל וּם	מִי	יָת	מוֹתִי	אֲנִי י
O my son	Absalom	H4310	for thee	would God I had died	H589
H1121	H53		H5414	H4191	H8478
אַבְשָׁל וּם	בְּנִי:	בְּנִי:			
Absalom	O my son	O my son			
H53	H1121	H1121			

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 19:4 (Kingdom): But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!

Psalms 103:13 (Parallel theme): Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

Proverbs 10:1 (Parallel theme): The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Proverbs 17:25 (Parallel theme): A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.