

2 Samuel 18:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

Analysis

And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is 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

אֶתִּי	וְאֶת	אֲבִישׁ י	וְאֶת	י וְאֶב	אֶת	הֶמָּה לְךָ	בְּצִוֹת
and Ittai	H853	and Abishai	H853	Joab	H853	And the king	charge
H863		H52		H3097		H4428	H6680
וְכָל	אֲבִשָּׁלוֹם:	לְנַעַר	לִי	לְאֵט	לֵאמֹר		
H3605	Absalom	for my sake with the young man	H0	Deal gently	saying		
	H53	H5288		H328	H559		
כָּל	אֶת	הֶמָּה לְךָ	בְּצִוֹת	שָׁמַע ו	הָעָם		
H3605	H853	And the king	charge	heard	And all the people		
		H4428	H6680	H8085	H5971		
אֲבִשָּׁלוֹם:	דָּבַר ר	עַל	הַשָּׂרִים				
Absalom	concerning	H5921	gave all the captains				
H53	H1697		H8269				

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