

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

אתִי וְאֶת אֲבִישָׁי וְאֶת אֶבְרָהָם בֶּצֶע תְּמִלְאָה אֶת בְּמִלְאָה לְךָ תְּמִלְאָה
charge **And the king** H853 **Joab** H853 **and Abishai** H853 **and Ittai** H863

H6680 H4428 H3097 H52 H853 H863

כִּל אֶבְשָׁלּוּם: לְבָעָר לְאַט לְאַט רְאַמְּנָה
saying **Deal gently** H0 **for my sake with the young man** **Absalom** H3605

H559 H328 H5288 H53

כִּל אֶת בְּמִלְאָה לְכָל אֶת בְּמִלְאָה
And all the people **heard** **charge** **And the king** H853 H3605

H5971 H8085 H6680 H4428

אֶבְשָׁלּוּם: דְּבָר עַל הַשְּׁרִיר
gave all the captains H5921 **concerning** **Absalom** H53

H8269 H1697 H53

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org