

2 Samuel 18:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim;

Analysis

So the people went out into the field against Israel: and the battle was in the wood of Ephraim;

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

וָיָצֵא	הָעָם	הַשָּׂדֶה	לְקַבֵּל אֶת	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	וַתֵּהָיֶה י
went out	So the people	into the field	against	Israel	H1961
H3318	H5971	H7704	H7125	H3478	

וְהַמִּלְחָמָה	בְּיַעַר	אֶפְרַיִם:
and the battle	was in the wood	of Ephraim
H4421	H3293	H669

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 17:18 (Parallel theme): But the mountain shall be thine; for it is a wood, and thou shalt cut it down: and the outgoings of it shall be thine: for thou shalt

drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots, and though they be strong.

Joshua 17:15 (Parallel theme): And Joshua answered them, If thou be a great people, then get thee up to the wood country, and cut down for thyself there in the land of the Perizzites and of the giants, if mount Ephraim be too narrow for thee.

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