

2 Samuel 20:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

Analysis

But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Sheba's Rebellion, emphasizing ongoing challenges to authority. Sheba's rebellion demonstrates that David's troubles continue despite Absalom's defeat. The wise woman's intervention prevents unnecessary bloodshed. Theological themes include ongoing resistance to God's appointed leader, the value of wisdom in crisis resolution, the danger of divisive rhetoric, and God's provision of unexpected solutions through unlikely people.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 20 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 ongoing challenges to authority 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 ongoing challenges to authority?
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

וַיֹּאבֵד	בְּיָד	אִשָּׁר	בֶּתְרָבוֹ	נִשְׁמָר	לֹא	וַעֲמָשָׁא
So Joab	hand	H834	to the sword	took no heed	H3808	But Amasa
H3097	H3027		H2719	H8104		H6021
יָמָּה יוֹ	וַיִּשְׁפֹּךְ	הָחֵמֶשׁ	אֶל	בָּהּ	וַיִּכֶהוּ	
his bowels	rib and shed out	H2570	him therewith in the fifth		so he smote	
H4578	H8210			H0	H5221	
וַאֲבִישָׁי	וַיֹּאבֵד	וַיָּמָת	לֹא	וַיִּכֶה	אֶל הָרָצָה	
and Abishai	So Joab	and he died		and struck	to the ground	
H52	H3097	H4191		H8138	H776	
בְּכִרִי	בֶּן	שֶׁבַע	אַחֲרָי	כָּדָף	אָחִי יוֹ	
of Bichri	the son	Sheba	after	pursued	his brother	
H1075	H1121	H7652	H310	H7291	H251	

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 2:23 (Parallel theme): Howbeit he refused to turn aside: wherefore Abner with the hinder end of the spear smote him under the fifth rib, that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there, and died in the same place: and it came to pass, that as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still.

2 Samuel 3:27 (Parallel theme): And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

Judges 3:21 (Parallel theme): And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly: