

2 Samuel 20:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that were with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down.

Analysis

And they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maachah, and they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that were with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down.

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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וַיָּבֹא אָוֹן	וְיָבֹא רֹא	וְעַל יְהוָה	בְּאָבֵל לְהָ	בְּיַתְרֹן	בְּמַעַךְ הַ
And they came	and besieged	H5921	him in Abel	H0	of Bethmaachah
H935	H6696		H59		H1038
וַיָּשַׁפְּכָה	סָלֵלה	אֶל	בָּעֵיר	וַיַּתְעַמֵּד	בְּחַלְכָּה
and they cast up	a bank	H413	against the city	and it stood	in the trench
H8210	H5550		H5892	H5975	H2426
בְּעַם	אֲשֶׁר	אֶת	וְאֶבֶן	מְשֻׁחָית מִ	וְיָבֹא
and all the people	H834	H854	that were with Joab	battered	
H5971			H3097	H7843	
לְפָפָר יְלָמָד	בְּחוֹמָה:				
to throw it down	the wall				
H5307	H2346				

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 19:32 (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it.

Jeremiah 32:24 (Parallel theme): Behold the mounts, they are come unto the city to take it; and the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans, that fight against it, because of the sword, and of the famine, and of the pestilence: and what thou hast spoken is come to pass; and, behold, thou seest it.

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