

2 Samuel 3:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let it rest on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leaneth on a staff, or that falleth on the sword, or that lacketh bread.

Analysis

Let it rest on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leaneth on a staff, or that falleth on the sword, or that lacketh bread.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Abner Defects and Dies, emphasizing political maneuvering, revenge consequences. This chapter illustrates the complexity of political transition and personal revenge. Abner's defection using covenant language (brit, בְּרִית) contrasts with Joab's treacherous murder, demonstrating how personal vengeance undermines national purposes. The text develops themes of legitimate vs illegitimate authority, the corrupting power of revenge, and maintaining integrity when others act unethically.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 3 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 political maneuvering, revenge consequences 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

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of political maneuvering, revenge consequences?
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

מְבַיַּת	כָּל	וְאֶל	וְאֶבֶן	עַל	רֶאשֶׁת	מְבַיַּת	מְבַיַּת	וְאֶבֶן
Let it rest	H5921	on the head	of Joab	H413	H3605	from the house		
H2342		H7218	H3097			H1004		
וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶל	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶל	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶבֶן
and on all his father's	H408	and let there not fail	from the house	H1004		of Joab		
H1		H3772	H1004			H3097		
וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶל	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶל	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶבֶן
one that hath an issue	H2100	or that is a leper	or that leaneth	H2388	on a staff	or that falleth		
		H6879	H2388	H6418		H5307		
וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶל	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶל	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶבֶן	וְאֶבֶן
on the sword	H2719	or that lacketh	bread	H3899				
		H2638	H3899					

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 1:16 (Parallel theme): And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed.

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