

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's Defection and Death, 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

מִבֵּית	כָּל	וְאֵל	לְיוֹאָב	רֹאשׁ	עַל	יָחַל לוֹ
from the house	H3605	H413	of Joab	on the head	H5921	Let it rest
H1004			H3097	H7218		H2342
יֹאָב	מִבֵּית	וְכֵן	תֵּאֵל	אָבִיו		
of Joab	from the house	and let there not fail	H408	and on all his father's		
H3097	H1004	H3772		H1		
וְנָפַל	לְ	וְנָתַן	יָדוֹ	עַל	זֶה	בֶּן
or that falleth	on a staff	or that leaneth	one that hath an issue	or that is a leper		
H5307	H6418	H2388	H2100	H6879		
לֶחֶם:	וְחִסֵּר	בְּחֶרֶב				
bread	or that lacketh	on the sword				
H3899	H2638	H2719				

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.