

2 Samuel 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings:

Analysis

When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings:

This verse contributes to the narrative of Ish-bosheth Murdered, emphasizing righteous vs unrighteous means. The assassination of Ish-bosheth and David's execution of the murderers demonstrates crucial distinctions between godly and ungodly means. While the result (removing Saul's dynasty) aligned with God's purposes, the method (treacherous murder) violated divine standards. Hebrew concepts of justice (mishpat, מִשְׁפָּט) and righteousness (tsedeq, צֶדֶק) permeate David's response.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 4 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 righteous vs unrighteous means 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of righteous vs unrighteous means?
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

כִּי הַמַּגִּיד לִי לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה יָמָת שָׁא וְהוּא הִנֵּה
H3588 **When one told** H5046 H0 **me saying** H559 H2009 **is dead** H4191 **Behold Saul** H7586 H1931 H1961

כְּמַבְשֵׁר בְּעֵינַי יוֹ וְאָחֲזָה בּוֹ וְאָהָרַג הוּא
good tidings H1319 **thinking to have brought** H5869 **I took hold** H270 H0 **of him and slew** H2026

בְּצִקְלָג אִישׁ רֹאֶתִי לִי
him in Ziklag H6860 H834 **who thought that I would have given** H5414 H0

בְּשָׂחָה:
him a reward for his tidings H1309