

2 Samuel 6:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.

Analysis

And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Ark Brought to Jerusalem, emphasizing reverence in worship, God's holiness. The ark's journey to Jerusalem emphasizes God's transcendent holiness and the necessity of approaching Him on His terms. Uzzah's death for touching the ark (though apparently well-intentioned) teaches that sincerity doesn't override obedience. David's dancing demonstrates appropriate joy in worship. Michal's contempt reveals heart attitudes toward genuine worship. The Hebrew qodesh (קדש, 'holiness') dominates this chapter.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 6 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 reverence in worship, God's holiness 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of reverence in worship, God's holiness?
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

וְאַנְתֶּן	יְמִלָּחֵם	בְּכָל	מִכְרֶכֶת	רַבָּה	עַל	לִפְנֵי	יְהִי	הַ	וְאַנְתֶּן
And David	danced	H3605	with all his might		before	the LORD	And David		
H1732	H3769		H5797		H6440	H3068		H1732	
וְאַנְתֶּן	יְמִלָּחֵם	בְּכָל	מִכְרֶכֶת	רַבָּה	עַל	לִפְנֵי	יְהִי	הַ	וְאַנְתֶּן
was girded	ephod	with a linen							
H2296	H646	H906							

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 2:18 (References Lord): But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

Exodus 15:20 (Parallel theme): And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

Psalms 149:3 (Parallel theme): Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.

Psalms 150:4 (Parallel theme): Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Judges 11:34 (Parallel theme): And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter.

Colossians 3:23 (References Lord): And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Psalms 30:11 (Parallel theme): Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

1 Samuel 2:28 (Parallel theme): And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?