

In Search of a King 1-2 SAMUEL

¹³ Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.

¹⁴ However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die."

2 Samuel 12:15-31

A Severe Mercy (pt. 2)

A Severe Mercy

1. David's Faith and Repentance

- this consequence caused David to seek the Lord intensely for the life of the child
- David's intensity was a sign of his remorse for his sin that resulted in the child's death

A Severe Mercy

➤ *How is the death of this infant just?*

- it was a unique part of the judicial recompense for David's sin
- it was not merely punitive but corrective for David's ultimate good
- God does no wrong or injustice in the taking of any life, even that of an infant

A Severe Mercy

2. David's Faith and Intercession

- David interceded for the child's life on the basis of God's gracious character, even in light of God's word of judgment!
- David resigned himself to God's good, though difficult, purpose for the child

A Severe Mercy

➤ *What about unanswered prayer?*

- God ordains prayer as a real and effective means of accomplishing His purpose, yet God is never manipulated but free
- faithful, fervent, unanswered prayer gives greater assurance of God's good and wise purpose

A Severe Mercy

3. David's Faith and Hope

- David's unanswered prayer for the child led him to worship the Lord
- David had a hope of reunion with the child after death

A Severe Mercy

➤ *What happens to infants who die?*

- God's just judgment is based on a conscious, willful unbelief and rejection of Him (Rom. 1:20) – infants do not possess this guilt
- Infants who die are saved by God's electing mercy on the basis of Christ's redemption

²⁴ Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him Solomon. Now the LORD loved him ²⁵ and sent *word* through Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah for the LORD's sake.

(2 Samuel 12:24-25)