

1 Chronicles 11:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he slew an Egyptian, a man of great stature, five cubits high; and in the Egyptian's hand was a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.

Analysis

Theological Analysis: This passage falls within the section on David established as king and mighty men. The Hebrew term בְּרִית (berit) - covenant is theologically significant here, pointing to God's sovereign choice of leadership. The Chronicler's narrative, while paralleling Samuel-Kings in places, offers a distinct theological perspective emphasizing temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Chronicles presents David not primarily as warrior-king but as worship organizer and temple planner. This verse contributes to that portrait by highlighting the spiritual dimensions of Israel's national life. The text demonstrates that true prosperity comes through proper worship and covenant obedience rather than merely military or political success.

Doctrinally, this passage teaches about God's sovereign choice of leadership. Cross-references throughout Chronicles connect David's reign to the broader redemptive narrative, showing how God's covenant promises advance through faithful human leadership while ultimately depending on divine grace and power. The messianic implications are profound: David as type of Christ, the Messianic King.

Historical Context

Historical Background: This section describes events from David's reign (c. 1010-970 BCE) but was written centuries later during the Persian period (c. 450-400 BCE). The Chronicler's selectivity in retelling David's story serves his theological purposes—he omits David's sins (Bathsheba, Absalom's rebellion) while emphasizing David's worship reforms and temple preparations.

The historical setting of David established as king and mighty men occurred during Israel's united monarchy, when the nation reached its territorial and political zenith. Archaeological evidence from this period shows significant building projects and administrative development. However, the Chronicler writes for a much smaller, struggling post-exilic community, using David's golden age to inspire hope for restoration.

Ancient Near Eastern parallels show that temple construction and royal sponsorship of worship were common across cultures. However, Israel's understanding of worship centered on covenant relationship with the one true God rather than manipulation of capricious deities. This theological distinctiveness shapes the Chronicler's presentation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's emphasis on God's sovereign choice of leadership challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?
2. What does David as type of Christ, the Messianic King teach you about Jesus Christ and His redemptive work?
3. In what practical ways can you apply the principles of covenant faithfulness and proper worship demonstrated in this passage?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה	הִכָּה	אֶת	אִישׁ	הַמִּצְרִי	אִישׁ	מִדָּה הַ	חֲמִשָּׁה
H1931	And he slew	H853	a man	an Egyptian	a man	of great stature	five
	H5221		H376	H4713	H376	H4060	H2568
בְּאַמָּה	מִיַּד	הַמִּצְרִי	בְּחִנִּיתוֹ:	כֶּמֶן	אֶרְגָּלִים		
cubits	hand	an Egyptian	him with his own spear	beam	like a weaver's		
H520	H3027	H4713	H2595	H4500	H707		
וַיֵּרָד	אֵלָיו	בִּשְׁבֶּט	וַיִּגְזַל	אֶת			
and he went down	H413	to him with a staff	and plucked	H853			
H3381		H7626	H1497				
בְּחִנִּיתוֹ:	מִיַּד	הַמִּצְרִי	וַיַּהַרְגֵהוּ	בְּחִנִּיתוֹ:			
him with his own spear	hand	an Egyptian	and slew	him with his own spear			
H2595	H3027	H4713	H2026	H2595			

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 17:7 (Parallel theme): And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.