

1 Samuel 25:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives.

Analysis

David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives.

The narrative notes David's polygamy without explicit moral comment. Ahinoam of Jezreel (a town in Judah, not the northern valley) became David's wife apparently during this same period. The phrase 'both of them his wives' acknowledges the reality that ancient Near Eastern rulers commonly had multiple wives. This practice, while tolerated in the Old Testament, consistently produced family conflict—David's household would later suffer severely from the complications of polygamy. The narrative records without endorsing, demonstrating Scripture's honest portrayal of figures it otherwise commends. David's acquisition of multiple wives foreshadows troubles his household would endure.

Historical Context

Multiple wives indicated status and provided political alliances in ancient Near Eastern culture. The Mosaic law regulated but did not prohibit polygamy (Deuteronomy 21:15-17). David eventually had at least eight wives, contributing to family dysfunction.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Scripture's honest recording of David's polygamy differ from endorsement?
2. What complications did multiple marriages create for David's household and succession?

Interlinear Text

גַּם וְתָהִי יָן מִיִּזְרְעֵל אֶל דָּוִד לָקַח חָ אַחִינֹם עִם וְאֵת
H853 Ahinoam H293 also took H3947 David H1732 of Jezreel H3157 H1961 H1571
שְׁתֵּיהֶן וְלִי לְנָשִׁים:
and they were also both H8147 H0 of them his wives H802

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 15:56 (Parallel theme): And Jezreel, and Jokdeam, and Zanoah,

1 Samuel 27:3 (References David): And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, even David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife.

1 Samuel 30:5 (References David): And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

2 Samuel 3:2 (References David): And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;