

# 2 Samuel 21:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was intreated for the land.

## Analysis

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**And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was intreated for the land.**

This verse contributes to the narrative of Famine and Giants, emphasizing justice, covenant obligations. The three-year famine traced to Saul's treaty violation demonstrates God's demand for covenant faithfulness and justice. The execution of Saul's descendants and Rizpah's faithful vigil over their bodies presents complex ethical questions. The Philistine giant battles demonstrate ongoing threats. Theological themes include multi-generational covenant obligations, the high cost of treaty violations, God's demand for justice, and His provision of strength for continued battles.

## Historical Context

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The historical setting of 2 Samuel 21 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 justice, covenant obligations 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

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of justice, covenant obligations?
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

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וְקָבַר ו	אֶת	עַצְמוֹת	שָׁא וְל	וַיהוֹנָתָן	בֶּן נֹ	לְאֶרֶץ
buried	H853	And the bones	of Saul	and Jonathan	his son	for the land
H6912		H6106	H7586	H3083	H1121	H776
וּבְנֵימָן	בְּצֵלַע	בֶּקֶת בָּר	קִישׁ	אָבִיו	וַיַּעֲשׂוּ	
of Benjamin	in Zelah	in the sepulchre	of Kish	his father	and they performed	
H1144	H6762	H6913	H7027	H1	H6213	
לְאֶרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר	צִוָּה	הָמֶלֶךְ	וַעֲתִיר	אֱלֹהֵי יִם	לְאֶרֶץ
H3605	H834	commanded	all that the king	was intreated	that God	for the land
		H6680	H4428	H6279	H430	H776
אֲחֵרִי	כֵּן:					
And after	H3651					
H310						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 18:28** (Parallel theme): And Zelah, Eleph, and Jebusi, which is Jerusalem, Gibeath, and Kirjath; fourteen cities with their villages. This is the inheritance of the children of Benjamin according to their families.

**2 Samuel 24:25** (Parallel theme): And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

**Joshua 7:26** (Parallel theme): And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.