

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

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

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

לֹא רָצָה בְּנֵי נַחַר וְעַמּוֹת אֶת יְהוָה וְשָׁא וְלִבְנֵי יְהוָה וְיְהוָה נִתְּן

buried H853 **And the bones** H6106 **of Saul** H7586 **and Jonathan** H3083 **his son** H1121 **for the land** H776

H6912

H6106

H7586

H3083

H1121

H776

וְיִשְׁעָשׁ וְאָבִיו קָרְבָּן יְשַׁבֵּן בְּצָלָעַ בְּנֵי מִ

of Benjamin H1144 **in Zelah** H6762 **in the sepulchre** H6913 **of Kish** H7027 **his father** H1 **and they performed** H6213

H1144

H6762

H6913

H7027

H1

H6213

לֹא רָצָה אֱלֹהִים יְשַׁעַת רַבְּנָת לְאָשָׁר כִּי

commanded H834 **all that the king** H6680 **was intreated** H4428 **that God** H430 **for the land** H776

H3605

H834

H6680

H4428

H430

H776

כִּי אַחֲרֵי :

And after H3651

H310

Additional Cross-References

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.