

2 Samuel 21:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ishbi-benob, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David.

Analysis

And Ishbi-benob, which was of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

וְהַ וְאַ נְחַ שְׁתַּ מְשֻׁקָּל מִזְאָוֹת שְׁלֵשׁ קִינּוֹן
 of whose spear weighed three hundred in weight shekels of brass H1931
 H7013 H7969 H3967 H4948 H5178

קָרְבָּן	אֶת	לְפָנֶיךָ	וְתִּשְׁאַל	יְהוָה	חַדְשָׁה	הַ	וְרַגְלָיו	וְרַגְלָיו
he being girded	with a new	sword thought	to have slain		H853	David		

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 21:18 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob: then Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Saph, which was of the sons of the giant.

2 Samuel 21:20 (Parallel theme): And there was yet a battle in Gath, where was a man of great stature, that had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in number; and he also was born to the giant.

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