

2 Samuel 21:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

Analysis

These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

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

אַתָּה	עַתָּה	אַרְבָּה	אַלְהָ	אֵלֶּד	אֵלֶּד	לְקַרְבָּה	בְּגַת	לְקַרְבָּה	לְקַרְבָּה	לְקַרְבָּה	לְקַרְבָּה
H853	These four	H428		were born		to the giant	in Gath				
	H702			H3205		H7497	H1661				
עֲבָדִים:	עֲבָדִים:	עֲבָדִים:	עֲבָדִים:	עֲבָדִים:	עֲבָדִים:	עֲבָדִים:	עֲבָדִים:	עֲבָדִים:	עֲבָדִים:	עֲבָדִים:	עֲבָדִים:
and by the hand	of David	and by the hand	of his servants								
H3027	H1732	H3027	H5650								

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 20:8 (References David): These were born unto the giant in Gath; and they fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

Romans 8:31 (Parallel theme): What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Jeremiah 9:23 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

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