

2 Samuel 21:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you.

Analysis

And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you.

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

בְּ סֶף	לֹא אָמַר יְמִין	לֹא אָמַר יְמִין	לֹא אָמַר יְמִין	לֹא אָמַר יְמִין	לֹא אָמַר יְמִין	לֹא אָמַר יְמִין
And he said	H0	And the Gibeonites	H1393	unto him	We will have no silver	H3701
H559		H369	H0			
nor gold	of	Saul	of	nor of his house	any man	
H2091	H5973	H7586	H5973	H1004	H369	H0
לֹבֶת יְהֹוָה	בִּשְׁרָאָה לְ	אָמַר יְמִין אֶת מִמְּה				
neither for us shalt thou kill	in Israel	And he said	H4100	H859	And he said	H559
H4191	H3478	H559	H4100	H859		
לְכָמָן אָשַׁע הָ						
that will I do	H0					
H6213						

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