

# 2 Samuel 21:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel,

## Analysis

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**And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel,**

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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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## 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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וַיֹּאמְרוּ	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ	הָאִישׁ	אֲשֶׁר	כָּל	נוֹ	וְאֲשֶׁר
And they answered	H413	the king	The man	H834	that consumed	H834	
H559		H4428	H376		H3615		
וְדָמָה	לָנוּ		נִשְׁמָה	דָּנוּ		מִהֵתִיץ	בְּ
us and that devised	H0		against us that we should be destroyed			from remaining	
H1819			H8045			H3320	
בְּכָל	גֹּבַל		יִשְׂרָאֵל:				
H3605	in any of the coasts		of Israel				
	H1366		H3478				

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 21:1** (Parallel theme): Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.

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