

2 Samuel 21:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give them.

Analysis

Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give them.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

אֶתֵּן:	לְנוֹ	שִׁבְעָה	אֲנָשִׁים	מִבְּנֵי יוֹ
I will give	H0	Let seven	H376	of his sons
H5414		H7651		H1121
וְהוֹקְעֵנוּם	יְהוָה	בְּגִבְעַת	שָׂא וּלְ	בָחַר יֵר
unto us and we will hang them up	unto the LORD	in Gibeah	of Saul	did choose
H3363	H3068	H1390	H7586	H972
יְהוָה	וַיֹּאמֶר	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֲנִי	אֶתֵּן:
unto the LORD	said	And the king	H589	I will give
H3068	H559	H4428		H5414

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 10:24 (Kingdom): And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

1 Samuel 10:26 (Parallel theme): And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

1 Samuel 11:4 (Parallel theme): Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

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