

2 Samuel 21:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite:

Analysis

But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite:

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics 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

וְקָח **took** H3947 הַמֶּלֶךְ **But the king** H4428 אֶת **H853** שְׁנֵי **the two** H8147 בָּנִים **sons** H1121 רִצְפָּה **of Rizpah** H7532 בִּתּוֹ **the daughter** H1323 אֵיָה **of Aiah** H345

אִשָּׁה **H834** יָלְדָה **whom she bare** H3205 שָׂא **of Saul** H7586 אֶת **H853** אַרְמֹנִי **Armoni** H764 וְאֶת **H853** מִפְּבוֹשֶׁת **and Mephibosheth** H4648

וְאֶת **H853** חֲמֵשׁ **and the five** H2568 בָּנִים **sons** H1121 מִיכָל **of Michal** H4324 בִּתּוֹ **the daughter** H1323 שָׂא **of Saul** H7586 אִשָּׁה **H834**

יָלְדָה **whom she bare** H3205 לְעַדְרִיָּא **for Adriel** H5741 בָּנִים **sons** H1121 בָּרְזַל **of Barzillai** H1271 הַמְּחֹלָתִי: **the Meholathite** H4259

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 18:19 (Parallel theme): But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.

2 Samuel 3:7 (Parallel theme): And Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah: and Ish-bosheth said to Abner, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine?