

# 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

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**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

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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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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## 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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אִיָּה בָּתְּ רְצִיפָּה בָּתְּ אִיָּה אֲשֶׁר  
took But the king the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah  
H3947 H4428 H853 H8147 H1121 H7532 H1323 H345

מֵפֶבֶשֶׁת וְאֶת אַרְמָנִי אֶת שָׁא וְלִלְדֵה  
whom she bare of Saul Armoni and Mephibosheth  
H834 H3205 H853 H7586 H764 H853 H4648

אֲשֶׁר שָׁא וְלִלְדֵה בָּתְּ מִיכָּל בָּנְיָה  
and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul  
H853 H2568 H1121 H4324 H1323 H7586 H834

בָּרְזִילָא לְעִדְרִיא לִלְדֵה  
whom she bare for Adriel sons of Barzillai the Meholathite  
H3205 H5741 H1121 H1271 H4259

## Additional Cross-References

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**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?