

2 Samuel 21:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

Analysis

And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

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 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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

וְיִתְּרַ�	בְּפִנֵּי	גִּבְעֹן	יָמִם	וְיִקְרַב
And he delivered	them into the hands	of the Gibeonites	and they hanged	
H5414	H3027	H1393	H3363	
בְּבֹרֶר	לִפְנֵי	יְהִי הָ	לִפְלֵל	שְׁבֻעַת יָמִים
them in the hill	before	the LORD	and they fell	all seven
H2022	H6440	H3068	H5307	H7651
וְיִתְּרַ�	בְּיָמִים	קֶצֶח יָמִם	בְּרִאשֵׁן יָמִם	תִּחְלַת הַ
and were put to death	in the days	harvest	in the first	days in the beginning
H4191	H3117	H7105	H7223	H8462
שְׁעָרִים:	קֶצֶח יָרֵ			
harvest	of barley			
H7105	H8184			

Additional Cross-References

Ruth 1:22 (Parallel theme): So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Beth-lehem in the beginning of barley harvest.