

2 Samuel 23:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.

Analysis

But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Last Words and Mighty Men, emphasizing legacy, faithful servants. David's last words emphasize the eternal covenant God established (v. 5) and declare principles of righteous rule. The accounts of David's mighty men demonstrate extraordinary courage and devotion. The water-drawing incident reveals David's unwillingness to value his comfort above his soldiers' lives. Theological themes include the importance of final testimonies, the eternal nature of God's covenant, the value of faithful servants, and the necessity of sacrificial leadership.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 23 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 legacy, faithful servants 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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of legacy, faithful servants?
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

אֶת	וַיַּךְ	וַיִּצִלְהָ	הַחֲלָקָה	בְּתוֹךְ	וַיַּעַמְד
But he stood	in the midst	of the ground	and defended	it and slew	H853
H3320	H8432	H2513	H5337	H5221	
גְּדוֹלָהּ:	תְּשׁוּבָה	יְהוָה	וַיַּעַשׂ	פְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם	
a great	victory	and the LORD	wrought	the Philistines	
H1419	H8668	H3068	H6213	H6430	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 21:31 (References Lord): The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.

2 Samuel 23:10 (References Lord): He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.

