

# 2 Samuel 23:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim.

## Analysis

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**And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim.**

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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיָּרֶד וְ	שְׁלֹשׁ יָמִים	מִהַשְׁלֹשׁ יָמִים	רֹאשׁ אֶשׁ	וַיָּבֹאוּ	אֶל	
went down	And three	of the thirty	chief	and came	H413	
H3381	H7969	H7970	H7218	H935		
בְּצֵיִת	אֶל	דָּוִד	אֶל	מַעֲבַת	עֲדֻלָּם	וְחֵיֵת
in the harvest time	H413	to David	H413	unto the cave	of Adullam	and the troop
H7105		H1732		H4631	H5725	H2416
פְּלִשְׁתִּים	חָנָה	בְּעֵמֶק	רְפָאִים:			
of the Philistines	pitched	in the valley	of Rephaim			
H6430	H2583	H6010	H7497			

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 22:1** (References David): David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.

**2 Samuel 5:18** (Parallel theme): The Philistines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim.

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