

2 Samuel 23:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Beth-lehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.

Analysis

And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Beth-lehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

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

בָּקָעָו	שָׁלַשׁ	הַגְּבָרִים	בְּמִתְןַהַיִם	פָּלָשָׁתִים	וְשָׁאָבוֹ
brake through	And the three	mighty men	the host	of the Philistines	and drew
H1234	H7969	H1368	H4264	H6430	H7579
מִן־אָרֶבֶת	לְחַמּוֹת	אֲשֶׁר	בְּשַׁעַר		
water	out of the well	of Bethlehem	that was by the gate		
H4325	H953	H1035	H8179		
וַיִּשְׁאַל	אֶל־יְהוָה	אֶל־אַדְנָיו	אֶל־אֶת־מִתְהֻזָּת		
and took	it and brought	it to David	nevertheless he would		
H5375	H935	H1732	H14		
לֹא־שָׁתָּם	וְלֹא־יָצַב	אֶת־מִתְהֻזָּת	לִיהְיוֹן		
not drink	thereof but poured it out	H853	unto the LORD		
H8354	H5258		H3068		

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 5:14 (Parallel theme): For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

Genesis 35:14 (Parallel theme): And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, even a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon.

Romans 5:7 (Parallel theme): For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

Lamentations 2:19 (References Lord): Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.