

2 Samuel 23:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.

Analysis

And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.

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

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

מִיד מְרָא הֵא שֶׁר בְּמִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר הַכָּה וְהַוָּא
H1931 and slew H853 man H834 a goodly H3027 hand
H5221 H376 H4713 H4758 H3027

תִּגְזַל בְּשֵׁבֶת בְּחִנִּיתוֹן בְּמִצְרַיִם יְיִצְדָּק אֶל יְהִי
H413 to him with a staff H7626 and plucked
an Egyptian had a spear but he went down H3381 H1497
H4713 H2595 H3027 H7626 H1497

אֲתָה בְּחִנִּיתוֹן בְּמִצְרַיִם בְּרִיגָה הַוָּא
had a spear hand an Egyptian And he slew had a spear
H853 H2595 H3027 H4713 H2026 H2595

