

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

וְהוּא	הִכָּה	אֶת	אִישׁ	הַמִּצְרִי	אֶשֶׁר	מִרְאֵה	מִיד
H1931	and slew	H853	man	an Egyptian	H834	a goodly	hand
	H5221		H376	H4713		H4758	H3027
הַמִּצְרִי	בְּחִנִּיתוֹ:	וַיֵּד	אֶל	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	בֶּשֶׁבֶט	וַיִּגְזֹל	
an Egyptian	had a spear	but he went down	H413		to him with a staff	and plucked	
H4713	H2595	H3381			H7626	H1497	
אֶת	בְּחִנִּיתוֹ:	מִיד	הַמִּצְרִי	וַהֲרִיג	בְּחִנִּיתוֹ:		
H853	had a spear	hand	an Egyptian	And he slew	had a spear		
	H2595	H3027	H4713	H2026	H2595		

