

# 2 Samuel 23:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.

## Analysis

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**The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.**

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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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## 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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מוֹשֶׁה לִּישָׁרָאֵל צֹרֶךְ לִי יִשְׁרָאֵל אֱלֹהִים: אָמַר  
said The God of Israel H0 spake the Rock of Israel ruling  
H559 H430 H3478 H1696 H6697 H3478 H4910

אֱלֹהִים: יִרְאַת מֹשֶׁה לִּצִדִּיק בָּאֲדָמָה  
over men must be just ruling in the fear The God  
H120 H6662 H4910 H3374 H430

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 22:32** (References God): For who is God, save the LORD? and who is a rock, save our God?

**Deuteronomy 32:4** (Righteousness): He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

**Exodus 18:21** (References God): Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

**Psalms 42:9** (References God): I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

**Psalms 72:2** (Righteousness): He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment.

**Genesis 33:20** (References Israel): And he erected there an altar, and called it El-elohe-Israel.

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