

2 Samuel 23:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,

Analysis

Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,

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

וְאֵבֶל אֵלֶיךָ נְשֵׁא אֵי בְּנֵי נְחָרִי הַבְּאֵרָתִי הַעֲמָנִי צָלָק
Zelek the Ammonite Naharai the Beerothite armourbearer to Joab
H6768 H5984 H5171 H886 H5375 H3627 H3097

בֶּן־צְרִיחָה:
the son of Zeruiah
H1121 H6870