

2 Samuel 23:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands:

Analysis

But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands:

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וּבְלֵי עַל	כָּק וְיָ	מִן ד	כָּל הֵם	פִּי
But the sons of Belial	shall be all of them as thorns	thrust away	H3605	H3588
H1100	H6975	H5074		
א ל	בִּי ד	יִקָּח:		
H3808	with hands	because they cannot be taken		
	H3027	H3947		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 33:12 (Parallel theme): And the people shall be as the burnings of lime: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire.

Ezekiel 2:6 (Parallel theme): And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

Genesis 3:18 (Parallel theme): Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

Deuteronomy 13:13 (Parallel theme): Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known;

1 Samuel 2:12 (Parallel theme): Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.

2 Samuel 20:1 (Parallel theme): And there happened to be there a man of Belial, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjamite: and he blew a trumpet, and said, We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: every man to his tents, O Israel.

Song of Solomon 2:2: As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.