

2 Samuel 23:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away:

Analysis

And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away:

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

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

וְאַחֲרֵי	אֶלְעָזָר	בֶּן	דָּדִי	בֶּן	אָחָת	בָּשָׁלֵשׁ
And after	him was Eleazar	the son	of Dodo	the son	the Ahohite	one of the three
H310	H499	H1121	H1734	H1121	H266	H7969
mighty men	with David	when they defied	בְּחִרְפַּת	בְּפָלַשְׁתִּים	גָּבָר	יְם
H1368	H1732	H2778	דַּיְדָה	the Philistines	מַעַמֵּד	נָאשָׁפָו
that were there gathered together			לִמְלָחֵם	וְנִעַל	וְנִסְבַּת	וְנִסְבַּת
H622		H8033	הַשְׁמִיד	הַשְׁמִיד	וְנִסְבַּת	וְנִסְבַּת
and the men	of Israel		to battle	were gone away		
H376	H3478		H4421	H5927		

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 27:4 (Parallel theme): And over the course of the second month was Dodai an Ahohite, and of his course was Mikloth also the ruler: in his course likewise were twenty and four thousand.

1 Samuel 17:26 (References David): And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

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