

2 Samuel 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.)

Analysis

And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.)

This verse contributes to the narrative of Ish-bosheth Murdered, emphasizing righteous vs unrighteous means. The assassination of Ish-bosheth and David's execution of the murderers demonstrates crucial distinctions between godly and ungodly means. While the result (removing Saul's dynasty) aligned with God's purposes, the method (treacherous murder) violated divine standards. Hebrew concepts of justice (mishpat, מִשְׁפָּט) and righteousness (tsedeq, צְדָקָה) permeate David's response.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 4 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 righteous vs unrighteous means 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of righteous vs unrighteous means?
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

וַיִּבְרְחוּ	הַבְּעֹרְתִּים	גַּת יָמָה	וְהָיוּ	שָׁם	גֵּרִים
fled	And the Beerothites	to Gittaim			and were sojourners
H1272	H886	H1664	H1961	H8033	H1481
עַד	הַיּוֹם	הַזֶּה:			
H5704	there until this day	H2088			
	H3117				

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 11:33 (Parallel theme): Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,

1 Samuel 31:7 (Parallel theme): And when the men of Israel that were on the other side of the valley, and they that were on the other side Jordan, saw that the men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities, and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

