

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 21

2 SAMUEL 21:1—24:25 - EPILOGUE: THESE LAST FOUR CHAPTERS FORM AN EPILOGUE. THERE ARE SIX SECTIONS ARRANGED CONCENTRICALLY. THE FIRST SECTION DEALS WITH A DROUGHT, THE LAST WITH A PLAGUE. THE SECOND AND FIFTH TALK ABOUT DAVID'S HEROES, AND THE MIDDLE TWO ARE PSALMS OF DAVID. THEY ARE NOT PLACED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER WITH THE REST OF THE BOOK (NOTE THE VAGUE EXPRESSION "IN THE DAYS OF DAVID" IN 21:1). THE LAST SECTION IS CLIMACTIC, DESCRIBING THE EVENTS LEADING TO THE PURCHASE OF THE LAND ON WHICH SOLOMON WOULD BUILD THE TEMPLE. (ESV STUDY BIBLE)

2 SAMUEL 21:1-2 - FAMINE IN ISRAEL. SAUL'S SIN AGAINST GIBEONITES IS THE CAUSE.

V. 1 - DAVID INQUIRED OF THE LORD AS TO WHY THIS FAMINE CONTINUED. CONDITIONS WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE. SO WHEN THEY WERE, IT WAS TIME TO FIND OUT WHY. IN THIS INSTANCE THE FAMINE WAS A RESULT OF SINS OF SAUL WHICH HAD BEEN LEFT UNRESOLVED.

FLASHBACK: JOSHUA 9:3-14, 15-21, 22-27 - ISRAEL'S COVENANT WITH GIBEON

DEUTERONOMY 7:1-2 - "WHEN THE LORD YOUR GOD BRINGS YOU INTO THE LAND WHERE YOU ARE ENTERING TO POSSESS IT, AND CLEARS AWAY MANY NATIONS BEFORE YOU, THE HITTITES AND THE GIRGASHITES AND THE AMORITES AND THE CANAANITES AND THE PERIZZITES AND THE HIVITES AND THE JEBUSITES, SEVEN NATIONS GREATER AND STRONGER THAN YOU, 2 AND WHEN THE LORD YOUR GOD DELIVERS THEM BEFORE YOU AND YOU DEFEAT THEM, THEN YOU SHALL UTTERLY DESTROY THEM. YOU SHALL MAKE NO COVENANT WITH THEM AND SHOW NO FAVOR TO THEM.

2 SAMUEL 21:3-6 - DAVID LOOKS TO ATONE FOR SAUL'S SIN AGAINST GIBEON

2 SAMUEL 21:7-10 - 7 OF SAUL'S GRANDSONS ARE GIVEN OVER TO GIBEONITES

THIS IS A GRUESOME RESOLUTION. A FEW THING TO CONSIDER.

1 - CLEARLY THIS SIN LEFT UNRESOLVED WAS AFFECTING THE ENTIRE NATION OF ISRAEL. VERSE 1 TELLS US THAT THE REASON FOR THE FAMINE OVER THE LAND (NOW IN IT'S 3RD YEAR) WAS A RESULT OF SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE.

2 - WORDS MATTER. ISRAEL MADE A COVENANT WITH GIBEON TO NOT HARM THEM. EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE "DUPED" INTO AGREEING TO SUCH A TREATY, THE TREATY WAS MADE. WE LIVE IN A CULTURE WHERE BEING CASUAL WITH THE TRUTH IS COMMON AND WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE. INTEGRITY IS SCARCE AND BROKEN PROMISES ABOUND. MARRIAGES ARE DISPOSABLE, BUSINESS DEALS ARE KEPT ONLY WHEN ADVANTAGEOUS, KEEPING YOUR WORDS AND COMMITMENTS ARE NOT PRIORITIZED. DAVID'S ACTIONS LOOK "HARSH" TO US BUT THAT IS BECAUSE WE DO NOT LOOK AT BREAKING A COVENANT AS A BIG DEAL. HOWEVER, TO GOD, IT IS.

YAHWEH IS THE GOD OF COVENANT AND TRUTH, AND HE COMMANDS HIS PEOPLE TO BE THE SAME.

3 - A DETERRENT TO SIN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE FACT THAT GOD WAS JUST TO CARRY OUT JUDGMENT UPON THE GENERATION THAT SINNED AND/OR THE GENERATIONS TO FOLLOW. HIS VERY NATURE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING TRAIT:

EXODUS 34:78 - YET HE WILL BY NO MEANS LEAVE THE GUILTY UNPUNISHED, VISITING THE INIQUITY OF FATHERS ON THE CHILDREN AND ON THE GRANDCHILDREN TO THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATIONS."

SO AGAIN, EVEN SAUL HIMSELF SHOULD HAVE BEEN WELL INFORMED, (BEFORE HIS SIN!) OF THE POSSIBLE RAMIFICATIONS UPON HIS HOUSE. GOD TENDS TOWARDS MERCY, FORGIVENESS AND PARDON, BUT AT TIMES HE CARRIES OUT JUSTICE. HOW SELF-FOCUSED OF US TO COMPLAIN WHEN HE SHOWS MERCY 99% OF THE TIME AND CHOOSES JUDGMENT 1%. BELIEVING IN A GOD WHO DOES NOT CARRY OUT JUSTICE OR WHO DOES NOT PUNISH THE GUILTY IS IDOLATRY, FOR THAT IS NOT THE GOD OF THE BIBLE.

2 SAMUEL 2:11-14 - SAUL, JONATHAN AND SAUL'S 7 GRANDSONS PROPERLY BURIED.

MOVED BY THE COMPASSIONATE ACT OF ONE OF THESE SEVEN MEN'S MOTHER (RIZPAH), DAVID BURIES THE DECEASED BEFORE THE RAIN CAME, SIGNALING THE END OF THE FAMINE AND THUS THE ATONEMENT MADE FOR SAUL'S SIN.

"RIZPAH, MOTHER OF TWO OF THE MEN HANGED BY THE GIBIONITES, SHELTERED THEIR BODIES FROM THE BIRDS AND WILD ANIMALS (CF. 1 SAM. 17:44, 46; PS. 79:2). ACCORDING TO DEUT. 21:22—23, THE BODIES OF THOSE WHO ARE HANGED SHOULD BE BURIED THAT SAME DAY (SEE JOSH. 8:29). UNTIL RAIN FELL UPON THEM MAY MEAN "UNTIL THE RAIN SHOULD HAVE FALLEN UPON THEM." IT MAY HAVE BEEN DECIDED THAT THE MEN WOULD NOT BE BURIED UNTIL THE RAINS FELL AND THE FAMINE STOPPED. THIS SUGGESTS THAT, WHEN DAVID HEARD WHAT RIZPAH WAS DOING, HE BURIED THEM EARLIER THAN PLANNED, AND THEN GOD RESPONDED (2 SAM. 21:14), PROBABLY BY SENDING RAIN." (ESV STUDY BIBLE, 2 SAMUEL 21:10-14)

V. 14 - THOUGH RARELY TO THE EXTENT HIGHLIGHTED BY THIS CHAPTER, SOMETIMES WE NEED TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT IN RELATIONSHIPS, OR REPENT OF SIN BEFORE THE BLESSING/FAVOR OF GOD RETURNS.

2 SAMUEL 21:15-17 - SOME OF THE EXPLOITS OF DAVID'S "MIGHTY MEN"

V. 15 - VERSE 15 STARTS A NEW SET OF STORIES WHICH OCCURRED AT SOME POINT, OR PERHAPS EVEN OVER THE COURSE OF DAVID'S REIGN.

V. 15-17 - ABISHAI KILLED ISHBI-BENOB, A DESCENDANT OF "THE GIANT" WHEN DAVID WAS GROWING WEARY IN THE BATTLE. APPARENTLY FROM THIS SECTION WE LEARN OF A CONTINUED ATTACK FROM THE PHILISTINES, PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF THE "GIANTS" AND FAMILY OF GOLIATH AFTER DAVID STRUCK HIM DOWN (ALL THE WAY BACK IN 1 SAMUEL 17)

V. 16 - 300 SHEKELS = APPROX. 7 POUNDS

2 SAMUEL 21:18-22 - 4 PHILISTINE GIANTS IN ALL KILLED

V. 18 - SIBBECAI THE HUSHATHITE STRUCK DOWN SAPH, WHO WAS AMONG THE DESCENDANTS OF THE GIANT.

V. 19 - ELHANAN THE SON OF JAARE-OREGIM THE BETHLEHEMITE KILLED GOLIATH THE GITTITE. THIS IS A DIFFERENT GOLIATH, OR PERHAPS A TEXTUAL ERROR AND ELHANAN ACTUALLY KILLED GOLIATH'S BROTHER. CP WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1 CHRONICLES 20:5 - AND THERE WAS WAR WITH THE PHILISTINES AGAIN, AND ELHANAN THE SON OF JAIR KILLED LAHMI THE BROTHER OF GOLIATH THE GITTITE, THE SHAFT OF WHOSE SPEAR WAS LIKE A WEAVER'S BEAM.

V. 21 - 12 FINGERED, 12 TOED GIANT FROM GATH KILLED BY DAVID'S NEPHEW JONATHAN.

JOAB

CHURCH POA