

2 Samuel 21

Verses 1 – 6

Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David sought the presence of the Lord. And the Lord said, “*It is* because of Saul and his bloody house, because he put the Gibeonites to death.”² So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them (now the Gibeonites were not of the sons of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites, and the sons of Israel had made a covenant with them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the sons of Israel and Judah).³ David said to the Gibeonites, “What should I do for you? And how can I make amends, so that you will bless the inheritance of the Lord?”⁴ Then the Gibeonites said to him, “For us it is not a *matter* of silver or gold with Saul or his house, nor is it for us to put anyone to death in Israel.” Nevertheless *David* said, “I will do for you whatever you say.”⁵ So they said to the king, “The man who destroyed us and who planned to eliminate us so that we would not exist within any border of Israel—⁶ let seven men from his sons be given to us, and we will hang them before the Lord in Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the Lord.” And the king said, “I will give *them*.”

Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David sought the presence of the Lord. And the Lord said, “*It is* because of Saul and his bloody house, because he put the Gibeonites to death.”

Why did it take David 3 years to ask God if something was wrong? The famine may not have caused too much of a problem at first but by the 3rd year it was apparent that something was amiss.

² So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them (now the Gibeonites were not of the sons of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites, and the sons of Israel had made a covenant with them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the sons of Israel and Judah).

The Israelites had made a covenant with the Gibeonites around 1405 BC.

See Joshua 9

But Saul attempted to exterminate the Gibeonites during his reign, violating the covenant that had been made about 400 years earlier.

³ David said to the Gibeonites, “What should I do for you? And how can I make amends, so that you will bless the inheritance of the Lord?”

When any segment of society is treated unfairly the Lord sees the injustice and there is a price to be paid by the nation as a whole. In America, slaves were brought to America for cheap labor and were mistreated in other ways that have been well documented.

“On a warm night in May 1921, thousands of whites, many deputized by the local police, swarmed through the Greenwood section of **Tulsa, Oklahoma**, killing scores of blacks, looting, and ultimately burning the neighborhood to the ground.”

So David asked the Gibeonites how this wrong could be made right. David did not try to deny the wrong that had been done or make excuses. Nor did he say that the Gibeonites had benefited from their years of lowly service to the Israelites because they had learned valuable job skills. Some Politian’s in our time have made this contention in an act of contempt against the black community. God will judge these people for their words.

Why has the party that claims to be Godly become arrogant and contemptuous in many ways and no one from the conservative party is willing to stand up and rebuke them for their folly. Am I the enemy for speaking the truth about what has happened to the conservative party?

⁵ So they said to the king, “The man who destroyed us and who planned to eliminate us so that we would not exist within any border of Israel— ⁶ let seven men from his sons be given to us, and we will hang them before the Lord in Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the Lord.” And the king said, “I will give *them*.”

There was a biblical principle being used here.

See Numbers 35:33.

³³ So you shall not defile the land in which you *live*; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of the one who shed it.

Saul, the man who had attempted to destroy them, was already dead so the Gibeonites asked for his grandsons.

Verses 7 – 9

⁷ But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the oath of the Lord which was between them, between David and Saul's son Jonathan. ⁸ So the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, Armoni and Mephibosheth whom she had borne to Saul, and the five sons of Merab the daughter of Saul, whom she had borne to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite. ⁹ Then he handed them over to the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the mountain before the Lord, so that the seven of them fell together; and they were put to death in the first days of harvest at the beginning of barley harvest.

⁷ But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the oath of the Lord which was between them, between David and Saul's son Jonathan.

See 1 Samuel 20:14-17

¹⁴ And if I am still alive, will you not show me the faithfulness of the Lord, so that I do not die? ¹⁵ And you shall never cut off your loyalty to my house, not even when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.” ¹⁶ So Jonathan made a *covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, “May the Lord demand *it* from the hands of David's enemies.” ¹⁷ And Jonathan made David vow again because of his love for him, because he loved him as he loved his own life.

⁸ So the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, Armoni and Mephibosheth whom she had borne to Saul, and the five sons of Merab the daughter of Saul, whom she had borne to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite.

Rizpah was one of Saul's concubines. One of her sons was also named Mephibosheth. So Saul had two sons with the same name.

Merab was the daughter of Saul that had married Adriel and had 5 sons.

It is unfair that the grandsons of Saul should die for the wrongdoing of Saul but this life is seldom fair and things like this will happen as long as mankind is living in this fallen world. This unfairness began when Adam & Eve sinned in the garden and it will continue until the end of time when Satan is no longer in control of this world.

⁹ Then he handed them over to the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the mountain before the Lord, so that the seven of them fell together; and they were put to death in the first days of harvest at the beginning of barley harvest.

See chart 2105

Jewish Feasts						
Feast	Scripture	Date Observed	Roman Calendar	Sabbath	Offerings	Commemorates
Passover	Lev. 23:05	Nisan 14 At twilight	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Oldest son saved from death
Festival of Unleavened Bread	Lev. 23:6-8	Nisan 15-21	March/April	Day 1 & 7 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 28:16-24	The hasty flight from Egypt
Offering the First Fruits	Lev. 23:9-14	After the Sabbath	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Beginning of the barley harvest
Feast Of Weeks (Pentecost)	Lev. 23:15-22	50 days after F.F.	May/June	Special Sabbath	Numbers 28:26-31	beginning of the wheat harvest.
Festival of Trumpets	Lev. 23:23-25	Tishri 1	September	Special Sabbath	Numbers 29:1-6	Civil New Year
Day of Atonement	Lev. 23:26-32	Tishri 10	Sept/Oct	Sabbath	Numbers 29:7-11	Forgiveness of sin for the nation
Tabernacles Temp. Shelters	Lev. 23:33-34	Tishri 15-22	Sept/Oct	Day 1 & 8 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 29:12-38	Wilderness End of harvest

Verses 10 – 14

¹⁰ And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until it rained on them from the sky; and she allowed neither the birds of the sky to rest on them by day nor the wild animals by night. ¹¹ When it was reported to David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done, ¹² then David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan from the citizens of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the public square of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them on the day the Philistines struck and killed Saul in Gilboa. ¹³ He brought up from there the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan, and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged. ¹⁴ Then they buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the country of Benjamin in Zela, in the grave of his father Kish; So they did everything that the king commanded, and after that God responded to prayer for the land.

¹⁰ And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until it rained on them from the sky; and she allowed neither the birds of the sky to rest on them by day nor the wild animals by night.

The barley harvest began in March/April and the rains usually came in late November or early December. So Rizpah must have kept a 6 to 8 month watch over the bodies. This long exposure of dead bodies was a direct violation of God's Law.

See Deuteronomy 21:22 - 23

²² “Now if a person has committed a sin *carrying* a sentence of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³ his body is not to be left overnight on the tree, but you shall certainly bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is cursed of God), so that you do not defile your land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.

The love of Rizpah for her two sons, Armoni and Mephibosheth, was quite remarkable. Keeping vultures and crows away during the day is one thing but keeping Jackals away during the night is something most men would be fearful of doing.

¹¹ When it was reported to David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done, ¹² then David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan from the citizens of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the public square of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them on the day the Philistines struck and killed Saul in Gilboa.

The honor and respect that Rizpah showed by protecting the dead bodies of her two sons and the other 5 men may have reminded David that Saul & his son Jonathan had not been buried with their father/grandfather Kish as they should have been.

¹³ He brought up from there the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan, and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged. ¹⁴ Then they buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the country of Benjamin in Zela, in the grave of his father Kish; So they did everything that the king commanded, and after that God responded to prayer for the land.

It is likely that the 7 grandsons of Saul were also buried in the tomb of Kish along with Saul & Jonathan but the text does not specifically state that to be so.

After the blood of the Gibeonites was atoned for God blessed the land with rain.

Verses 15 - 17

¹⁵ Now when the Philistines were at war with Israel again, David went down, and his servants with him; and when they fought against the Philistines, David became weary. ¹⁶ Then Ishbi-benob, who was among the descendants of the giant, the weight of whose spear was three hundred *shekels* of bronze in weight, had strapped on a new *sword*, and he intended to kill David. ¹⁷ But Abishai the son of Zeruiah helped him, and struck the Philistine and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, saying, "You shall not go out again with us to battle, so that you do not extinguish the lamp of Israel."

¹⁵ Now when the Philistines were at war with Israel again, David went down, and his servants with him; and when they fought against the Philistines, David became weary.

David was 30 years old when he became King and he reigned 40 years. So he lived to be 70 years old and currently he is 65 years old.

See chart 2110

2nd Samuel Timeline

Ch.	Event	Year
2	David King over Judah	1010
5	David king over Israel	1003
6	Ark brought to Jerusalem	1000
8	David Defeats the Philistines	998
10	David defeats Ammon and Aram	995
11	David and Bathsheba	993
12	Nathan rebukes David	991
12	Solomon is born	990
13	Absalom kills Ammon	990
13	Absalom in Gesher	3 years 990 - 987
14	Absalom comes home to Jerusalem	2 years 987 - 985
15	Absalom's conspiracy	4 years 985 - 981
18	Absalom slain by Joab	981
20	Sheba Rebels	980
21	Gibeon famine	978 - 975
24	Census	974
	David Dies	970

¹⁶ Then **Ishbi-benob**, who was among the descendants of the giant, the weight of whose spear was three hundred *shekels* of bronze in weight, had strapped on a new sword, and he intended to kill David.

The weight of his spear was between 7 1/2 to 8 pounds. There is physical proof that large weapons like this were used during that time period.

See video 2110 8.32 Giants in the bible

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.32.html>

¹⁷ But **Abishai** the son of **Zeruiah** helped him, and struck the Philistine and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, saying, "You shall not go out again with us to battle, so that you do not extinguish the lamp of Israel."

Zeruiah was one of David's two sisters and Abishai was one of her 3 sons.

See 1 Chron. 2:13 - 16

¹³ and Jesse fathered Eliab his firstborn, then Abinadab, the second, Shimea, the third, ¹⁴ Nethanel, the fourth, Raddai, the fifth, ¹⁵ Ozem, the sixth, and David, the seventh. ¹⁶ Their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. And the three sons of Zeruiah were Abshai, Joab, and Asahel.

Given David's age it was wise to restrict him from going out to the battle field. Considering the fact that David was 65 years old and would only live for another 5 years, it is a little surprising that he was able to go out to battle until this point in time.

Verses 18 – 22

¹⁸ Now it came about after this that there was war again with the Philistines at Gob; then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck and killed **Saph**, who was among the descendants of the giant. ¹⁹ And there was war with the Philistines again at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite killed **Goliath** the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. ²⁰ And there was war at Gath again, where there was **a man of great stature** who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; and he also had been born to the giant. ²¹ When he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimei, David's brother, struck and killed him. ²² These four were born to the giant at Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

There was war again with the Philistines at Gob

And there was war with the Philistines again at Gob

And there was war at Gath again

There were 4 battles in all. The first was outlined in verses 15 – 17 and 3 more here in verses 18-22.

¹⁹ And there was war with the Philistines again at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite killed Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

The KJV says the brother of Goliath.

¹⁹ And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

The parallel account in 1 Chronicles 20:5 states that, "Elhanan ... slew Lahmi the brother of Goliath.

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.

However, the same account in the Septuagint does not say the brother of Goliath.

19 And there was a battle in Gob with the Philistines; and Eleanan son of Ariorgim the Bethleemite slew Goliath the Gittite; and the staff of his spear [was] as a weaver's beam.

There are ways to resolve the matter:

1. It is also possible that more than one Philistine giant was named Goliath.

In verse 19 it says the battle was at Gob. When David killed Goliath it was in the valley of Elah. However, we don't know where Gob was located and it is possible these two places refer to the same place.

2. It is also possible that Elhanan and David were names of the same individual just as Solomon was also named Jedidiah.

2 Samuel 12:24

²⁰ And there was war at Gath again, where there was a man of *great* stature who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; and he also had been born to the giant.

Polydactyly is one of the most common congenital (present at birth) hand abnormalities. About one out of every 500 to 1,000 babies are born with the condition, usually with only one hand affected.

²² These four were born to the giant at Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

Giants are mentioned in the bible before and after the global flood. The great diversity found in mankind came about by what God programmed into the DNA of Adam and Eve and this was still present in the three sons of Noah after the flood. God wanted mankind to be diverse and it was so. The scientific community has named this process speciation but they refuse to give God the credit for this great wonder.