### 2 Samuel

## Chapter 21

1Well, there came three consecutive years of famine during the days of David, so he asked Jehovah, and the Lord said:  
  
 ‘This is happening because the house of Saul was guilty of shedding [innocent] blood when he killed the GibeOnites.’  
  
2So the king called the GibeOnites, and he said:  
  
 ‘You GibeOnites [really] aren’t IsraElites, you’re just what remains of the Amorites! However, although the sons of IsraEl swore an oath to your people, Saul attacked you in his zeal for the sons of IsraEl and Judah.’  
  
3Then David asked them:  
  
 ‘So, what must I do for you… What must I do to [pay for our sins], and to get you to bless the inheritance of Jehovah?’  
  
4And the GibeOnites replied:  
  
 ‘The problem can’t be paid for with silver or gold by Saul and his house, and none of [his family] remain anywhere in IsraEl whom we can put to death.’  
  
5So [David] again asked:  
  
 ‘Then, what can I do for you?’  
  
And they told the king:  
  
 ‘[Saul] would have finished us off!  
  
 ‘For he chased us down, tried to trick us, and he attempted to wipe us out!  
  
 ‘Therefore, we’d like to remove [any trace] of him, so that his ways won’t endure anywhere within the borders of IsraEl... 6Please give us seven of his descendants, and we’ll hang them in the sun before Jehovah, there in Saul’s town of GibeOn!’  
  
Then the king promised:  
  
 ‘I’ll give them to you.’  
  
7However, the king [had promised to] spare MephiBosheth (JoNathan’s son, and Saul’s grandson), because of the oath that they’d sworn before Jehovah… The one between David and JoNathan (Saul’s son).  
  
  
8So the king took [Saul’s sons] ErMoni and MephiBosheth ([who’s mother was] ResPha, who was the daughter of Saul’s concubine AiAh’s), plus the five sons of Saul’s daughter Michol (whom she’d born to EsdriEl son of BarZilLai the Moulathite), 9and handed them over to the GibeOnites, who hung them on the mountain in the sun before Jehovah.  
  
And there they died, all seven of them together!  
  
Well, this happened at the beginning of the barley harvest.  
  
10So ResPha (AiAh’s daughter) took sackcloth and made a bed for herself on the rock [beneath the dead bodies of the hanging men], [and she stayed there] from the beginning of the barley harvest until water from God dripped from the sky… She didn’t let the birds to rest on them during the day, nor the wild animals to come during the night.  
  
11Then, everything that ResPha (Saul’s concubine AiAh’s daughter) was doing was reported to David. 12So David had the bones of Saul and his son JoNathan taken from the sons of JabIsh GileAd (which they’d stolen from BethSan’s city square where the Philistines had put them after killing Saul at GilBoa), 13and they also gathered the bones of the men who’d been hung in the sun [by the GibeOnites], 14and carried all their bones (those of Saul, JoNathan, and the men who were hung in the sun) to the land of BenJamin, where they were buried on the side of a hill, in the tomb of Kish, Saul’s father.  
  
They did exactly as the king told them... And after that, God started paying attention to the land once again.  
  
  
15Meanwhile, there was still a state of war between the Philistines and IsraEl, so David took his men and went to fight the Philistines (however, by then David’s health had started to decline).  
  
16Meanwhile, JesBi (who was a descendant of Rapha) had a brass spear that weighed as much as 300 large silver coins, and he was wearing heavy armor when he decided to attack David... 17But AbiShai son of ZeruJah came to David’s aid and he struck down the Philistine, killing him.  
  
And that’s when David’s men swore an oath to him saying:  
  
 ‘You may never again come with us to a battle, so that the lamp of IsraEl won’t be extinguished!’  
  
  
18Well at the time, the war with the Philistines was still being fought at Gath, where SeboCha (the AstaTothite) eventually conquered the descendants of the ‘giants.’ 19They were also fighting the Philistines at Gob, which is where Ari’s son EleAnan killed LachMi, GoliAth the GitTite’s brother (whose spear was as large as a weaving loom).  
  
20Then, as the battle raged on in Gath, a man from Madon who had 6 fingers on each hand and 6 toes on each foot (for a total of 24), Rapha’s son, 21came and shouted insults at IsraEl... However, JoNathan (son of David’s brother ShimeAh) cut him down!  
  
22All of these men were descendants of the ‘giants’ in Gath from the house of Rapha, but David and his servants had cut them all down.