

The Lord's Inheritance

2 Samuel 20 - 21

Key Verse: 20:19

Chapters 21–24 are a conclusion to 1 and 2 Samuel. The first and last events—the Gibeonites avenged (21:1–14) and David's counting his fighting men (24:1–25)—are paralleled, each having a distinct emphasis: in the first event, God's justice and faithfulness; in the second, God's holiness. The next parallel is of David's mighty men (21:15–22; 23:8–39). The main part is in the middle (22:1–23:7), where David praises God and God commends David as a shepherd king. This conclusion shows us the character of God's kingdom and what a spiritual leader of God's people should do.

1. What division had Absalom's rebellion aroused? (19:40–43) How did Sheba exploit this? (20:1–2) How did David treat his concubines? (20:3) What assignment did he give Amasa and Abishai? (20:4–7) Why did Joab murder Amasa? (20:8–13) How did one wise woman put an end to the rebellion? (20:14–22) Who were David's officials? (23–26)
2. What other problem arose in Israel, what did David do, and what did the LORD show him? (21:1–2; Jos9:15,19–20; Nu30:2) How did David resolve this matter while keeping his oath to his friend Jonathan? (21:2–9; 1Sa20:42) How did he practice compassion while administering justice? (21:10–14a) How did God bless this? (21:14b)
3. Note the four enemies who intimidated Israel (21:15–22). How were they defeated? How did David's men regard him (21:17), and what did this mean to them? (18:3; 23:4)