

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

### Part 50 – The Three Year Famine Through The Staying Of The Plague (II Samuel 21-24)

1. What happened year after year for three years during the days of David?
  - There was a famine in the land (**II Samuel 21:1**).
2. Who caused the problem discussed in question one?
  - “...Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites” (**II Samuel 21:1**).
3. At David’s inquiry, what did the Gibeonites request for restitution from what Saul had done to them?
  - “And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.) Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD? And the Gibeonites said unto him, **We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel.** And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you. And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel, **Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD did choose.** And the king said, I will give them” (**II Samuel 21:2-6**).
4. What happened as a result of the Gibeonites’ request?
  - “But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD’S oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite: And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and **they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell all seven together,** and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest” (**II Samuel 21:7-9**).
5. Did Rizpah mourn the loss of her two sons?
  - Obviously, she did: “And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water dropped upon them out of heaven, and suffered neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night. And it was told David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done” (**II Samuel 21:10-11**).
6. What was done concerning the bones of Saul, Jonathan, and those who died at the hands of the Gibeonites?
  - “And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabeshgilead, which had stolen them from the street of Bethshan, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa: And he

*brought up from thence the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son; and they gathered the bones of them that were hanged. And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was intreated for the land” (II Samuel 21:12-14).*

7. What happened with the decedents of Goliath?

- *“Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: **and David waxed faint**. And **Ishbibenob, which was of the sons of the giant**, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, **thought to have slain David**. But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David swore unto him, saying, **Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel**. And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob: then **Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Saph, which was of the sons of the giant**. 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. And there was yet a battle in Gath, where was a man of great stature, that **had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in number; and he also was born to the giant**. And **when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea the brother of David slew him**. **These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants**” (II Samuel 21:15-22).*

8. Who did David give credit to for deliverance out of the hands of Saul and his enemies?

- The Lord (II Samuel 22:1-4; 18).

9. How does David describe what God did when He was wroth [angry] when David called upon Him for fear of his enemies (II Samuel 22:5-7)?

- *“Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth. There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet. And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind. And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, and thick clouds of the skies. Through the brightness before him were coals of fire kindled. The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice. And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them. And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils. He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters; He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them that hated me: for they were too strong for me” (II Samuel 22:8-18).*

10. Why did the Lord reward David?

- *“The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all his judgments were before me: and as for his*

*statutes, I did not depart from them. I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity. Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight” (II Samuel 22:21-25).*

11. What does the Lord do to the haughty?

- He brings them down (**II Samuel 22:28**).

12. What does David say about his successes in battle?

- *“He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great. Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip. I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them. And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise: yea, they are fallen under my feet. For thou hast girded me with strength to battle: them that rose up against me hast thou subdued under me. Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies, that I might destroy them that hate me. They looked, but there was none to save; even unto the LORD, but he answered them not. Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, and did spread them abroad. Thou also hast delivered me from the strivings of my people, thou hast kept me to be head of the heathen: a people which I knew not shall serve me. Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me. Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places. The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation. It is God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me, And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man. Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name. He is the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore” (II Samuel 22:35-51).*

13. Were David’s words inspired of God?

- Yes, (**II Samuel 23:2-3**).

14. What did God say about those that rule over men?

- That he must be just, ruling in the fear of God (**II Samuel 23:4**).

15. Even though David’s house was not as the light of the morning, did God still make a covenant with David?

- Yes, (**II Samuel 23:5**; cf. **II Samuel 7:8-12**).

16. What happened when David desired water from the well of Bethlehem as he was in the stronghold against the Philistines?

- *“And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate! And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate,*

*and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD. And he said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this! Is this not the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men" (II Samuel 23:14-17).*

17. Why was the anger of the Lord kindled against Israel during David's reign in our current context of study?

- *"And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah" (II Samuel 24:1).*
- To understand that God did not make David number Israel see: **I Chronicles 21:1.**

18. Did anyone try to stop David from erring?

- Joab tried but David did not listen (**II Samuel 24:2-4**).

19. What happened after David numbered the people?

- *"And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly" (II Samuel 24:10).*

20. What did the prophet named Gad tell David?

- *"For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me" (II Samuel 24:11-13).*
- This is why David's heart smote him.

21. What was David's response to Gad and what resulted from that response?

- David's response: *"And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man" (II Samuel 24:14).*
- The consequence: *"So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men. And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite" (II Samuel 24:15-16).*

22. What did David do when he saw the angel in action?

- *"And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house" (II Samuel 24:17).*

23. What did Gad instruct David to do concerning the will of God?

- “And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite” (II Samuel 24:18).

24. What did David do with the instructions Gad had given him?

- “And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded. And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground. And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people. And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood. All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee. And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel” (II Samuel 24:19-25).