

# THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE! 2 SAM. 21:1-14

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## I. Injustice

**2 Samuel 21:1** Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and **David inquired of the LORD**. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites. **2 Samuel 21:2** 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.)

### Situation:

- **Begins with a famine** → A 3-year famine – year after year...
- **A famine caused by Saul's actions**
- **A famine (consequences) caused by Saul's actions (injustice)**
- **All known by Divine revelation**

### Thoughts:

- **There is always injustice**
- **Injustice of many kinds**

Minor irritations

serious wrong-doing

regional/national wrong-doing

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- **Injustice that has consequences**

Emotional pain

murder/rape/robbery/loss of job

Rwanda/genocide Sudan/civil war

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- **Injustice that cries for justice**

## II. Justice

**2 Samuel 21:1** Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and **David inquired of the LORD**. And the LORD answered, **It is for Saul, and for his bloody house**, because he slew the Gibeonites. **2 Samuel 21:2** 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.) **2 Samuel 21:3** 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?** **2 Samuel 21:4** 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.** **2 Samuel 21:5** 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,** **2 Samuel 21:6** 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. **2 Samuel 21:8** 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: **2 Samuel 21:9** 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.**

**This text scares us to death & maybe horrifies us!**

- **Saul's sin was of blood guilt**

**2 Samuel 21:1** Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and **David inquired of the LORD**. And the LORD answered, **It is for Saul, and for his bloody house**, because he slew the Gibeonites.

**Genesis 4:9** And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? **Genesis 4:10** And he said, **What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.** **Genesis 4:11** And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

**Genesis 9:5** And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; **at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.** **Genesis 9:6** Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

**Numbers 35:30** Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person to cause him to die. **Numbers 35:31** Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death. **Numbers 35:32** And ye shall take no satisfaction for him that is fled to

the city of his refuge, that he should come again to dwell in the land, until the death of the priest. **Numbers 35:33** So ye shall **not** pollute the land wherein ye are: **for** blood it defileth the land: and the land **cannot** be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, **but** by the blood of him that shed it. **Numbers 35:34** Defile not therefore the land which ye shall inhabit, wherein I dwell: for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.

➤ **Saul's sin was against nature, natural law, and nature's God!**

➤ **Saul's sin was a sin that broke a sacred oath & covenant (from 400 years earlier!)**

**2 Samuel 21:1** Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, **It is for Saul, and for his bloody house**, because he slew the Gibeonites. **2 Samuel 21:2** 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.)

**Joshua 9:6** And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore **make ye a league** (פְּרִתוּ־לִנּוּ בְרִית) **with us**. **Joshua 9:11** Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying, Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them, We are your servants: therefore now **make ye a league** (פְּרִתוּ־לִנּוּ בְרִית) **with us**.

**Joshua 9:14** And the men took of their victuals, and asked **not** counsel at the mouth of the LORD. **Joshua 9:15** And Joshua made peace (שָׁלוֹם) with them, and **made a league** (וַיִּכְרֹת לָהֶם בְּרִית) **with them**, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation swore unto them. **Joshua 9:16** And it came to pass at the end of three days **after they had made a league** (אַ־שָׁרִי־כָרְתוּ לָהֶם בְּרִית) with them, that they heard that they were their neighbours, and that they dwelt among them. **Joshua 9:17** And the children of Israel journeyed, and came unto their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, and Chephirah, and Beeroth, and Kirjath-jearim. **Joshua 9:18** And the children of Israel smote them **not**, because the princes of the congregation had **sworn** unto them by the LORD God of Israel. And all the congregation murmured against the princes. **Joshua 9:19** But all the princes said unto all the congregation, **We have sworn** unto them by the LORD God of Israel: now therefore we may **not** touch them. **Joshua 9:20** This we will do to them; we will even let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath which we swore unto them.

### III. Beyond justice & injustice!

**2 Samuel 21:10** 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. **2 Samuel 21:11** And it was told David what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done. **2 Samuel 21:12** And David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men of Jabesh-gilead, which had stolen them from the street of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them, when the Philistines had slain Saul in Gilboa: **2 Samuel 21:13** 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**. **2 Samuel 21:14** 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.

#### Thoughts:

- Punishment was meted out
- Severe punishment
- To satisfy God's righteous judgment
- Rizpah says and does **nothing** to disagree with the righteous judgment
- Rizpah moves beyond judgment to...
  
- Rizpah moves beyond...**without** words / **in** silence
- Rizpah mourned
  
- Rizpah **also** honored what she could!
- Rizpah did this day & night **until** judgment was lifted
- Rizpah acts **impacted** David
- David then reburied Saul & Jonathan in their family cemetery – honorably
  
- David **also** buried, **with** honor, those who had been hanged
- Going beyond justice & injustice!

**2 Samuel 21:7** **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.

**1 Samuel 20:8** Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant **into a covenant** (בְּכֵרִית יְהוָה) **of the LORD with thee**: notwithstanding, if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldest thou bring me to thy father?

**1 Samuel 20:14** And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me **the kindness** (חַסְדֵּךָ יְהוָה) **of the LORD**, that I die not: **1 Samuel 20:15** But also thou shalt not cut off **thy kindness** (אֶת־חַסְדְּךָ) from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

**1 Samuel 20:42** And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, **forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD**, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

**1 Samuel 23:18** And they two made **a covenant** (כָּרְתִית לִפְנֵי יְהוָה) **before the LORD** : and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.