

# David: After God's Heart

God provides direction and strength when His people face trying times.



**TRANSFORMATION**  
for Adult LifeGroups

2 SAMUEL 21:1-6,10-14 - RESOLVED

AUGUST 5, 2018/AUGUST 15, 2018

## TODAY'S TEXT

**Text:** 2 SAMUEL 21:1-6,10-14 (NIV), *During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so David sought the face of the Lord. The Lord said, "It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death." 2 The king summoned the Gibeonites and spoke to them. (Now the Gibeonites were not a part of Israel but were survivors of the Amorites; the Israelites had sworn to spare them, but Saul in his zeal for Israel and Judah had tried to annihilate them.) 3 David asked the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? How shall I make atonement so that you will bless the Lord's inheritance?" 4 The Gibeonites answered him, "We have no right to demand silver or gold from Saul or his family, nor do we have the right to put anyone in Israel to death." "What do you want me to do for you?" David asked. 5 They answered the king, "As for the man who destroyed us and plotted against us so that we have been decimated and have no place anywhere in Israel, 6 let seven of his male descendants be given to us to be killed and their bodies exposed before the Lord at Gibeah of Saul—the Lord's chosen one." So the king said, "I will give them to you."*

*10 Rizpah daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on a rock. From the beginning of the harvest till the rain poured down from the heavens on the bodies, she did not let the birds touch them by day or the wild animals by night. 11 When David was told what Aiah's daughter Rizpah, Saul's concubine, had done, 12 he went and took the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from the citizens of Jabesh Gilead. (They had stolen their bodies from the public square at Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them after they struck Saul down on Gilboa.) 13 David brought the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from there, and the bones of those who had been killed and exposed were gathered up. 14 They buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the tomb of Saul's father Kish, at Zela in Benjamin, and did everything the king commanded. After that, God answered prayer in behalf of the land.*

## FIRST THOUGHTS

- What is the scariest natural disaster you have faced? Hurricane, storms, floods, earthquake, tornados, etc.
- How do natural disasters fit into God's plans?
- How are the ways that we talk about natural disasters with believers and unbelievers different?

## UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Famine is mentioned throughout the Bible and appears at key junctions in the lives of such key figures as the patriarchs and the prophets. While not always the result of divine judgment on sin, at times it did indicate the Lord's displeasure with something in the experience of His people Israel, as we see in this week's passage. The purpose was always to lead them back to Him and to seek His favor. God used times of famine to accomplish His purposes (Ps. 105:16-17; 1 Kings 18:20-44).

David was a wise king who shepherded the people of Israel with a pure heart (Ps. 78:72), but he did not pursue his calling with a perfect heart. As a man, David had his flaws and thus could never rule perfectly. Even the solution he enacted regarding the Gibeonites in 2 Samuel 21 may not have been a flawless execution of justice. The church, the people of God, still awaits for the true Son of David, Christ the Lord, to return and bring justice to the earth (Rev. 19:11).

Yet David served God's purposes. We see many attributes of great kingship in David's activity. He sought the Lord, not his own wisdom, when challenges arose among the nation (2 Sam. 21:1). He kept the promises that he made even when it might have been easier or expedient not to do so (21:7; see also 16:1-4; 19:24-30).

Because of his own deeds as a giant killer through the strength of the Lord (1 Sam. 17:1-58), David's men performed their own exploits against the descendants of Goliath (2 Sam. 21:15-22). As he advanced in years, David would falter in battle (21:15) but by his own example he had raised others who could take his place and win the day. This type of leadership is exercised by those with a resolute heart, like David, whose faith was firmly fixed on the living God.

## EXPLORE THE TEXT

### THE CAUSE

#### > Read 2 Samuel 21:1-3

- What's the most dramatic thing God has used in your life to get your attention? Why do we wait until God does something drastic to examine ourselves and seek him?
- How did David's response to God's revelation show wisdom?

## THE REQUEST

### > Read 2 Samuel 21:4-6

- Are you more surprised by the solution the Gibeonites proposed or that David agreed to it? Why do you think this request was so specific and not a demand for payment or reward?
- What injustices bother you most in today's world? Have you considered what part you play in allowing injustices to take place?
- What does this passage teach us about our responsibility to right wrongs—even when we weren't the ones who committed them?

## THE RESOLUTION

### > Read 2 Samuel 21:10-14

- Rizpah, mother to two of the executed men, tirelessly protected the seven bodies. How did David help her?
- Why did David help both sides: Saul's family and Gibeonite families?
- Why is it easier to turn a blind eye to injustice than to do something about it?

## SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

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God provides direction and strength when His people face trying times.

How does God want you to right a wrong? To prevent a wrong?

**Personal Challenge:** Your actions will affect those who follow you, for better or for worse. Invite God to reveal in you one habit you want repeated generations from now and one habit you want no one to repeat ever. Seek God's favor for deepening the former and removing the latter.

## UPCOMING LESSONS

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- Next week join us for back to school Sunday
- Take some time to read 2 Samuel 22 this week over several days.
- As he nears the end of his life, David prepares this psalm of praise recounting what God had done for him. Take some time this week to write a praise list (or maybe even a psalm) of what God has done in your life.

Back to School Sunday

Thankful – 2 Samuel 22:26-36, 50-51

Disciplined – 2 Samuel 24:10-25

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

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**6th** - Habakkuk 1-3; John 8 | **7th** - Zephaniah 1-3; John 9 | **8th** - Jeremiah 1-2; John 10 | **9th** - Jeremiah 3-4; John 11 | **10th** - Jeremiah 5-6; John 12 | **11th** - Jeremiah 7-9; John 13 | **12th** - Jeremiah 10-12; John 14