

Dry Times



Sunday September 22, 2024

Previous Lesson

- A Wise and Faithful Woman **2 Samuel 20:14-22**
- *I am among the peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel. Why would you swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?"* ²⁰ And Joab answered and said, "Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy!" ²¹ *That is not so. But a man from the mountains of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has raised his hand against the king, against David. Deliver him only, and I will depart from the city."* So the woman said to Joab, "Watch, his head will be thrown to you over the wall."
- One bad man exposed the city to destruction. One good woman affected its deliverance. As Joab's men batter the wall, a wise woman cries out for a conference with Joab. She stops the attack not with weapons, but with wise words and a plan of action. Treasures From the Scriptures
- When **Joab** explained that he was simply after the rebel leader, **Sheba**, who was hiding inside, she agreed to have him killed and **his head... thrown over the wall** as proof that he was dead. Believer's Bible Commentary

Judged Faithful

- **Acts 16:14-15 (NKJV)**

¹⁴ Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

¹⁵ And when she and her household were baptized, she begged *us*, saying, "If you have judged me to be **faithful to the Lord**, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

- **Romans 12:9-13 (NIV)**

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, **faithful in prayer**.

¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

David's Officers

- **2 Samuel 20:23-26 (NKJV)**

²³ And Joab *was* over all the army of Israel; Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over the Cherethites and the Pelethites;

²⁴ Adoram *was* in charge of revenue; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* recorder;

²⁵ Sheva *was* scribe; Zadok and Abiathar *were* the priests;

²⁶ and Ira the Jairite *was* a chief minister under David.

- **2 Samuel 8:15-18 (NKJV)**

¹⁵ So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered judgment and justice to all his people.

¹⁶ Joab the son of Zeruiah *was* over the army; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud *was* recorder;

¹⁷ Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar *were* the priests; Seraiah *was* the scribe;

¹⁸ Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was over* both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons *were* chief ministers.

- The list of the king's important officials in verses [23-26](#) is largely the same as that in [8:15-18](#).
- **Joab** headed the army;
- **Benaiah** was in charge of David's bodyguard;
- **Jehoshaphat... was the recorder**;
- **Sheva** (same as Seraiah) **was the scribe** or stenographer;
- **Zadok and Abiathar were the priests.** (**Zadok and Ahimelech** were the priests in the earlier list.) Ahimelech was the son of Abiathar
- The only other differences were that **Adoram was in charge of revenue**
- and **Ira the Jairite was David's priest (or chief minister)**, whereas David's sons had been mentioned in chapter [8](#). Believer's Bible Commentary
- **1 Samuel 22:20-21 (NKJV) Saul's murder of the priests**
²⁰ Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David.
²¹ And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD'S priests.
- Zadok the son of Ahitub
- Ahimelech the son of Ahitub
- Abiathar was Ahimelech's son who fled from Saul
- Ahimelech the son of Abiathar – possibly named after his grandfather

Dry times

- **2 Samuel 21:1 (KJV) Why the famine?**

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

- This chapter is not in chronological order with the rest of the book. It is known as an appendix chapter added on to the end. During David's reign, a problem developed in the land for three years. The problem was a severe famine. Hunger was probably driving people to robbery and theft. Babies and children were crying to their mothers for food. The elderly were getting weaker. Inflation was rampant. After three years, David enquires of the Lord and the Lord answers him.
- **Famine has a way of getting our attention and driving us to our knees whether it is a famine of food, finances, fellowship, friends, fun, or freedom.**
- Our trials can and many times drive us to the Lord.

- **Does anything arouse your curiosity about David praying to the Lord after three years of famine?**
- Why did David wait so long? God was ready to answer his prayer and enquiry, but David was slow to ask. The lesson for us is don't wait till your situation gets desperate before you talk to the Lord. Stay close to Him each day.
- [1 Chronicles 16:11](#)—*Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.*
- [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)—*Pray without ceasing.*
- We are to have a consistent prayer life.
- David prayed to the Lord and God gave him a straight answer... "Saul and his bloody house slew the Gibeonites." Saul's sin concerning the atrocity with the Gibeonites had not been dealt with. Judgment was taking place even though Saul was dead and gone. He left the nation in a mess because of his wickedness. Don't forget that your sin affects others too.
- Why did judgement for Saul's sin not come during Saul's lifetime instead of during David's?
- **2 Samuel 22:31-33 (NKJV) David spoke**
³¹ *As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.*

- A covenant had been made 400 years earlier during the time of Joshua. Without praying and talking to the Lord, Joshua made a covenant with the Gibeonites who had disguised themselves as foreigners from a far land. They were destined to be destroyed and implemented this deception in order to survive. **Joshua 9:26-27 (NIV)** That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the community and for the altar of the LORD at the place the LORD would choose. And that is what they are to this day.
- The Gibeonite Cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim (Joshua 9, 17). These cities formed a triangle extending between Ramallah in the north and Abu-Gosh in the west, and this triangle was in the very heart of Benjaminite territory. Jerusalem itself was still occupied by the Jebusites. Against this background we can easily understand the zeal of king Saul - who was a Benjaminite - against the Gibeonites. Saul also had sound state reasons for his action, for the Gibeonites were occupying an enclave in the very centre of the Israelite kingdom. Saul was unable to conquer Jerusalem, but he was in a position to push out the Gibeonites. Probably, Saul offered to move them peacefully to some other territory, but the Gibeonites refused on the strength of the ancient covenant. It was then that Saul forcefully evicted them from their enclave. Obviously, many Gibeonites were killed when they resisted Saul, and the rest dispersed in various parts of the country.

- For Israel to break a covenant was considered a serious offense. **Numbers 30:1-2 (NIV)** Moses said to the heads of the tribes of Israel: "This is what the LORD commands: When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said."
- For this reason Joshua and the princes would not break their promise no matter how unpopular it was. **Joshua 9:18-19 (NIV)** But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the assembly had sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. The whole assembly grumbled against the leaders, but all the leaders answered, "We have given them our oath by the LORD, the God of Israel, and we cannot touch them now."
- The one offended here is God. He is the one defending the Gibeonites. These folks faithfully kept their word to Israel.
- They never defected to the enemies of Israel and created no problems for them. They still served at the altar of the Lord even when the people became idolatrous. They were devoted to the Lord and the Temple.
- After Saul's massacre, they still remained silent, making no disturbances, complaints, or demands. God now defends them and speaks up for them. David is left to correct Saul's wrong. He asks, "What can I do for you? How do I make atonement for this wrong?" This portion reminds us that if we have wronged someone, we need to make restitution for any damages as well as seeking their forgiveness. Treasures From the Scriptures

- **2 Samuel 21:2-7 (KJV) The atonement- the wrong made right**

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.)

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?

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.

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,

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*.

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.

- **2 Samuel 21:8-14 (NKJV) The consequence of Saul's sin**

⁸ So the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite;

⁹ and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the hill before the LORD. So 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.

¹⁰ Now Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains poured on them from heaven. And she did not allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night. ¹¹ And David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done.

¹² Then David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan his son, from the men of Jabesh Gilead who had stolen them from the street of Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them up, after the Philistines had struck down Saul in Gilboa.

¹³ So he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from there; and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged.

¹⁴ They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the tomb of Kish his father. So they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God heeded the prayer for the land.

- What we do can affect the lives of those who come after us. Saul's actions affected the lives of his sons and grandsons.
- So he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from there; and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged.
¹⁴ They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the tomb of Kish his father. So they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God heeded the prayer for the land.
- Here we are told the reason for the famine in the land, but famines, droughts, storms and floods happen in life. We may ask God "Why?" but unlike David we may not receive the answer we seek.
- **Matthew 5:44-45 (NKJV) God send rain on all, Just and unjust**
⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,
⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

- **Psalm 139:1-3 (NKJV) God knows me**

¹ O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

² You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

³ You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

- **Psalm 139:7-12 (NIV) God knows where I am**

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," ¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

- **Psalm 139:21-24 (KJV) I am under his conviction**

²¹ Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? ²² I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

- ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴ And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- **Psalm 37:3-7 (NKJV) Trust God no matter what**

³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

⁴ Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass.

⁶ He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.

⁷ Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

- Judgment for Saul's sin came to David and Israel. It took David three years to ask God, "WHY?" David responded and "And after that God heeded the prayer for the land. "
- David learned that he needed to trust God's timing and as well as his judgments.
- The wicked and wickedness may seem to prosper for now but Psa 1:5 reminds us, "Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. "

- **Proverbs 3:1-12 (NKJV) Troubled times may come for a reason**
 - ¹ My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands;
 - ² For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you.
 - ³ Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,
 - ⁴ *And* so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.
 - ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
 - ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.
 - ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.
 - ⁸ It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.
 - ⁹ Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;
 - ¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.
 - ¹¹ My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction;
 - ¹² For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights.
- **Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV) Kept because of trust**
 - ³ You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You*, Because he trusts in You.
- Not kept from trials but give perfect peace through them.