

2 Samuel 21 shape and keywords

Now there was a famine in the days of **David** for three years, year after year; and **David** sought YHWH's face. YHWH said, "There is bloodguilt on **Saul** and on his house, because he put the **Gibeonites** to death." So the **king** called the **Gibeonites** and spoke to them. (Now the **Gibeonites** were not of the people of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; although the people of Israel had sworn to spare them, **Saul** had tried to wipe them out in his zeal for the people of Israel and Judah.) **David** said to the **Gibeonites**, "What shall I do for you? How shall I make expiation, that you may bless the heritage of YHWH?" The **Gibeonites** said to him, "It is not a matter of silver or gold between us and **Saul** or his house; neither is it for us to put anyone to death in Israel." He said, "Whatever you say I will do for you." They said to the **king**, "The man who brought us to an end and planned to destroy us, so that we should have no place in all the territory of Israel-- let seven of his sons be given, yes, given over to us, and we will impale them before YHWH at **Gibeon** of **Saul**, the chosen of YHWH." The **king** said, "I will hand them over." But the **king** spared Mephibosheth, the son of **Jonathan son of Saul**, because of the oath of YHWH that was between them, between **David** and **Jonathan son of Saul**. The **king** took the two sons of Rizpah daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to **Saul**, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Merab daughter of **Saul**, whom she bore to Adriel son of Barzillai the Meholathite; he gave them into the hands of the **Gibeonites**, and they impaled them on the mountain before YHWH. The seven of them perished as one. They were put to death in the first days of harvest, at the beginning, yes, beginning of barley harvest.

Then Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it on a rock for herself, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell on them from the sky; she did not allow the birds of the air to settle by day, or the wild animals by night. When **David** was told what Rizpah daughter of Aiah, the secondary woman of **Saul**, had done, **David** went and took the **bones** of **Saul** and the **bones** of his **son Jonathan** from the people of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the public square of Beth-shan, where the **Philistines** had hung them, yes, hung them up, on the day the **Philistines struck down Saul** on Gilboa. He brought up from there the **bones** of **Saul** and the **bones** of his **son Jonathan**; and they gathered the **bones** of those who had been impaled. They buried the **bones** of **Saul** and of his **son Jonathan** in the land of Benjamin in Zela, in the tomb of his father Kish; they did all that the **king** commanded. After that, God heeded supplications for the land.

The **Philistines** went to **war again** with Israel, and **David** went down together with his servants. They fought against the **Philistines**, and **David** grew weary. Ishbi-benob, one of the **children of the giants**, whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of bronze, and who was fitted out with new weapons, said he would kill **David**. But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to his aid, and attacked the **Philistine** and **struck him down**. Then **David's** men swore to him, "You shall not go out with us to battle any longer, so that you do not quench the lamp of Israel." After this the **Philistines** went to **war again**, at Gob; then Sibbecai the Hushathite **struck down** Saph, who was one of the **children of the giants**. Then the **Philistines** went to **war again** at Gob; and Elhanan son of Jaare-oregim, the Bethlehemite, **struck down** Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. There was **war again** at Gath, where there was a man of great size, who had six fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; he too was one of the **children of the giants**. When he taunted Israel, Jonathan son of **David's** brother Shimei, **struck him down**. These four were **children of the giants** in Gath; they fell by the hands of **David** and his servants.