

Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

Testing During David's Reign

- In the later years of his reign David faced a national test of famine [2 Sam 21:1a].
- This test came upon Israel because of Saul's ill treatment of the Gibeonites [2 Sam 21:1b-2].
 - The people of Israel were tricked into making a covenant with the Gibeonites [Josh 9:3-27].
 - Saul, in an unrecorded incident, had violated the covenant by killing some of the Gibeonites.
- David wasted no time setting things right with the Gibeonites [2 Sam 21:3-14].
 - The Gibeonites were not interested in money and, as Israel's servants, could not take vengeance into their own hands [v. 4].
 - Instead, they asked for descendants of Saul to be handed over so they could follow eye-for-eye, tooth-for-tooth, life-for-life [vv. 5-6; Ex 21:23-25].
 - David granted the Gibeonites their request while honoring his covenant with Jonathan by sparing his son Mephibosheth [vv. 7-9; 1 Sam 20:15-26].
 - Rizpah, the mother of two of the men, grieved for her sons and protected their bodies from the birds and the beasts [v. 10].
 - David was so moved by Rizpah's actions that he honored her sons in their burial [vv. 11-14].
 - NOTE: While normally the body of someone hung would be removed by sundown [Deut 21:22-23], the bodies of these men remained until it rained, indicating that the national curse was over.
- David fought in battle against the Philistines and struggled [2 Sam 21:15-17].
 - David is older now and lacks strength [v. 15].
 - One of Goliath's descendants intended to kill David, but Abishai took care of him [vv. 16-17a].
 - They asked David to stay back in future [v. 17b].
 - This is an example of the devil attempting to wait for an opportune time [Luke 4:1-13].
- Three more relatives of Goliath were killed by David's men [2 Sam 21:18-22].
 - Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph [v. 18].
 - Elhanan killed Goliath's brother [v. 19; 1 Chr 20:5].
 - Jonathan, David's nephew, killed a six-fingered, six-toed giant [vv. 20-21].
 - Abishai had killed Ishbi-benob [v. 17], making four of the Nephilim in all [v. 22].