



## 2 Samuel 21:1-14

Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, “*It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites.*”<sup>2</sup> So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites *were* not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; the children of Israel had sworn protection to them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore David said to the Gibeonites, “What shall I do for you? And with what shall I make atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the LORD?”

<sup>4</sup> And the Gibeonites said to him, “We will have no silver or gold from Saul or from his house, nor shall you kill any man in Israel for us.”

So he said, “Whatever you say, I will do for you.”

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<sup>5</sup> Then they answered the king, “As for the man who consumed us and plotted against us, *that* we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the territories of Israel, <sup>6</sup> let seven men of his descendants be delivered to us, and we will hang them before the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, *whom* the LORD chose.”

And the king said, “I will give *them*.”

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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<sup>[a]</sup> the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite; <sup>9</sup> 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.

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<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> And David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done. <sup>12</sup> 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,<sup>[b]</sup> where the Philistines had hung them up, after the Philistines had struck down Saul in Gilboa. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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.



## Who were the Gibeonites?

- A desperate attempt at survival (Joshua 9:3-5; :11-15)
- The root of the problem (Joshua 9:14); fault of the rulers (:18)
- Saul some 350 years later violated the covenant (2 Samuel 21:1)
- The Gibeonites now wanted revenge! ( 2 Samuel 21:5-6)

# A Scarred Mother: Rizpah



- **She left her comfort zone to accomplish what was of 1<sup>st</sup> concern**
  - We must determine what is of 1<sup>st</sup> concern to us (Mt. 6:33-34; Phil. 3:13-14)
  - Why did she choose sackcloth? (2 Sam. 21:10)
    - ✓ Representation of penitence? (Gen. 37:34; Mt. 11:21)
    - ✓ A Self-imposed discomfort/restriction to ensure success? (Jer. 35:5-10; I Cor. 9:27; etc.)

# A Scarred Mother: Rizpah



## ➤ **She exemplified a spirit of perseverance and self-sacrifice**

- Did others see it as extreme, radical? What about Noah, Abraham, Paul?
- Is this the longest funeral service ever? She would stand guard until they received the desired “rest” (c.f. Hebrews 4:9-11)
- If a parent would make this kind of effort for a dead child how much more should we a living one! (Deut. 4:9)
- God pays attention to this kind of love (Hebrews 6:10-12)

# A Scarred Mother: Rizpah



## ➤ Her faithfulness served as a motivation to others

- A beautiful conclusion to the story (:11-12)
- David was convicted by this woman's example. Notice that there is no indication that she said a word (I Peter 3:1)
- Because of her 9 people ultimately received the "rest" they were due. What an impact it must have made on family and friends!
- God was pleased and healed the land as a result of what Rizpah started! (2 Sam. 21:14)

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”<sup>25</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.” (John 5:24-25)*

*“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,”  
(Ephesians 2:1)*

