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YouTube Prayer Link

We are royal priests

2 Samuel chapter 21

Begin with a famine that lasted three years during the reign of David. While seeking the Lord's guidance, David was told that the famine was the result of Saul's previous mistreatment of the Gibeonites. David then approached the Gibeonites and asked them what they could do to make amends. They demanded that the seven descendants of Saul be handed over to them to be killed. David agreed to their request, sparing only one of Saul's grandsons, Mephibosheth, because of his previous promise to Jonathan. The Gibeonites killed seven of Saul's descendants and hung their bodies on the mountain. This act of revenge put an end to the famine.

The chapter then recounts several battles David's battles with the Philistines, and his men defeated their four champions. The chapter concludes with a brief mention of the battle with the Philistines, where David was nearly killed but was saved by one of his men.

There are two narratives in 2 Samuel 21, one about God's famine in Israel because of Saul's transgressions, and the other about David's four mighty men slaying four Philistine giants

Israel was a God's chosen people, in a covenant relationship with God. God would bless the Israelites as promised, but if Israel broke his commandments and broken his covenant, God would bring evil upon Israel according to the curse written in the covenant. As Israel entered the dynastic age, David, God's chosen and anointed king, appeared, whose office was to lead his people to live in God's covenant so that they could receive God's blessings.

As God's chosen ones, we have received His promises and blessings. No matter what challenges or difficulties we face, we can rely on His strength and love. When we feel a troubled and

troubled heart, pray for His peace and comfort as He promises to be with us and give us strength. Let us unite in prayer, support one another, and feel divine serenity and peace.

As God's chosen people, we should respond to His love and grace by serving Him wholeheartedly and doing His will. We can respond to His election and blessing through devotional prayer, Bible study, fellowship with other believers, and godly lifestyles. At the same time, we are to approach His blessings with humility and thanksgiving, not forgetting to glorify Him in all things.

We are God's chosen royal priests, the believers in Christ. According to the Bible, 1 Peter 2:9 says, "But you are a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, and a people of God." This means that Christians are called royal priests because they have a special status and responsibility in Christ. This includes the duties of connecting with God on behalf of humanity, interceding with God, preaching the gospel, and exercising spiritual authority.

There are many passages in the Bible that speak of God's mercy. Here are some examples:

Psalm 136: This psalm is a hymn that ends with "For His mercy endures forever," emphasizing that God's mercy is eternal.

Lamentations 3:22-23: This passage says, "We shall not perish because of all the lovingkindness of the Lord; because of his mercy that does not break off. Every morning, it's new; Your honesty is exceedingly great. This is an expression of God's mercy and love for the Israelites.

Ephesians 2:4-5: This passage says, "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love for us, raised us alive with Christ when we died in sins." This emphasizes God's love and mercy so that we can be redeemed through Christ.

1 John 4:7-8: This passage says, "Beloved, let us love one another; for love is from God; Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. This emphasizes that God's essence is love, and that His love is the root of our love for one another.

These verses are just a part of the Bible about God's lovingkindness, and they remind us of what a loving and merciful God God is and that we can rely on His love and mercy.

We pray together

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your endless love and mercy. Thank You for the goodness of Your love in our lives, and for filling every day with Your grace and love. Help us to experience Your love at all times, to fill our hearts with Your love, so that we can feel Your presence with us at all times. Lord, teach us how to respond to Your lovingkindness, let us love others with thanksgiving, and preach Your grace. At all times, we are to praise Thy lovingkindness, for Thou art our benefactor and our Redeemer. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

2Samuel chapter 21

2Sa. 21:1 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."

2Sa. 21:2 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.)

2Sa. 21:3 David asked the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? How shall I make amends so that you will bless the LORD's inheritance?"

2Sa. 21:4 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.

2Sa. 21:5 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,

2Sa. 21:6 let seven of his male descendants be given to us to be killed and exposed before the LORD at Gibeah of Saul — the LORD's chosen one." So the king said, "I will give them to you."

2Sa. 21:7 The king spared Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the oath before the LORD between David and Jonathan son of Saul.

2Sa. 21:8 But the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of

Aiah's daughter Rizpah, whom she had borne to Saul, together with the five sons of Saul's daughter Merab, [Two

Hebrew manuscripts, some Septuagint manuscripts and

Syriac (see also 1 Samuel 18:19); most Hebrew and Septuagint manuscripts Michal] whom she had borne to Adriel son of Barzillai the Meholathite.

2Sa. 21:9 He handed them over to the Gibeonites, who killed and exposed them on a hill before the LORD. All seven of them fell together; they were put to death during the first days of harvest, just as the barley harvest was beginning.

2Sa. 21:10 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 of the air touch them by day or the wild animals by night.

2Sa. 21:11 When David was told what Aiah's daughter Rizpah, Saul's concubine, had done,

2Sa. 21:12 he went and took the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from the citizens of Jabesh Gilead. (They had taken them secretly from the public square at Beth Shan, where the

Philistines had hung them after they struck Saul down on

Gilboa.)

2Sa. 21:13 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.

2Sa. 21:14 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 on behalf of the land.

2Sa. 21:15 Once again there was a battle between the Philistines and Israel. David went down with his men to fight against the Philistines, and he became exhausted.

2Sa. 21:16 And Ishbi-Benob, one of the descendants of Rapha, whose bronze spearhead weighed three hundred shekels [That is,

about 7 1/2 pounds (about 3.5 kilograms)] and who was armed with a new sword, said he would kill David.

2Sa. 21:17 But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to David's rescue; he struck the Philistine down and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, saying, "Never again will you go out with us to

2Sa. 21:18 In the course of time, there was another battle with the Philistines, at Gob. At that time Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph, one of the descendants of Rapha.

2Sa. 21:19 In another battle with the Philistines at Gob, Elhanan son of Jaare-Oregim [Or son of Jair the weaver] the Bethlehemite killed Goliath [Hebrew and Septuagint; 1 Chron. 20:5 son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath] the Gittite, who had a spear with a shaft like a weaver's rod.

2Sa. 21:20 In still another battle, which took place at Gath, there was a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot — twenty-four in all. He also was descended from Rapha.

2Sa. 21:21 When he taunted Israel, Jonathan son of Shimeah, David's brother, killed him.

2Sa. 21:22 These four were descendants of Rapha in Gath, and they fell at the hands of David and his men.

Chapter 21 of the book of 2 Samuel begins with a famine that lasted for three years during the reign of David. Upon seeking guidance from the Lord, David was told that the famine was a consequence of Saul's previous mistreatment of the Gibeonites. David then approached the Gibeonites and asked what could be done to make amends. They requested for seven of Saul's descendants to be handed over to them to be killed. David agreed to their request, sparing only one of Saul's grandsons, Mephibosheth, due to his previous promise to Jonathan. The Gibeonites then killed the seven descendants of Saul and hung their bodies on a hill. This act of retribution ended the famine.

The chapter then recounts several battles fought by David against the Philistines, where his men were able to defeat four of their champions. The chapter ends with a brief mention of a battle against the Philistines where David was nearly killed, but was saved by one of his men.

Chapter 21 of the book of 2 Samuel is a collection of miscellaneous stories from the reign of David. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

1. "Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year.

And David sought the face of the Lord. And the Lord said, 'There is bloodguilt on

Saul and on his house, because he put the Gibeonites to death.'" (2 Samuel 21:1) - This verse begins with a famine that lasts for three years, which David believes is a punishment from God. He seeks the Lord's face and discovers that it is the result of Saul's previous actions against the Gibeonites. This sets the stage for a dramatic confrontation between David and the Gibeonites.

2. "But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Saul's son Jonathan, because of the oath of the Lord that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul." (2 Samuel 21:7) - This verse shows the continued loyalty that David has towards Jonathan and his family, despite the enmity between him and Saul. It also highlights the importance of oaths and promises in the biblical tradition.

3. "And there was again war with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Saph, who was one of the descendants of the giants. And there was again war with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, the Bethlehemite, struck down Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam." (2 Samuel 21:18-19) - This verse includes an account of two legendary battles between the Israelites and the Philistines, both of which involve the defeat of giants. It adds to the overall mythology surrounding David's reign and his military prowess.

Overall, chapter 21 of 2 Samuel is a collection of stories that offer additional insights into the reign of David, including the continued impact of Saul's legacy, the importance of oaths and promises, and the ongoing conflict with the Philistines.

In 2 Samuel Chapter 21, we encounter a series of events and conflicts that take place during David's reign. Here are some key reflections from the chapter:

Famine and Atonement: The chapter begins with a severe famine that lasts for three years. Through inquiring of the Lord, David discovers that the famine is a consequence of Saul's earlier mistreatment of the Gibeonites. David seeks to make amends by asking the Gibeonites how they can be appeased. This highlights the importance of acknowledging past wrongs and seeking reconciliation, even if they were committed by previous generations.

Justice and Retribution: The Gibeonites request seven of Saul's descendants to be handed over to them for execution as retribution for the mistreatment they suffered. David honors their request, delivering the sons of Rizpah and Michal to be put to death. This serves as a reminder of the principle of justice and the consequences that can result from past actions.

Rizpah's Lament: Rizpah, the mother of two of the condemned men, demonstrates her deep sorrow and grief by protecting the bodies of her sons from birds and wild animals. Her actions reveal the pain and anguish of losing loved ones and her desire for their dignity even in death. It serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring love of a mother and the human capacity for mourning.

Burial of Saul and Jonathan: After the execution of Saul's descendants, David retrieves the bones of Saul and Jonathan and gives them a proper burial in the family tomb. This act demonstrates David's respect and honor for his former king and his deep bond with Jonathan, emphasizing the enduring loyalty and love between friends.

Reflection on Atonement and Redemption: Chapter 21 offers reflections on the themes of atonement and redemption. It highlights the importance of making amends for past wrongs, seeking reconciliation, and recognizing the consequences of actions taken. It also emphasizes the power of grief and the need for dignity and respect in death.

Overall, 2 Samuel Chapter 21 offers reflections on the consequences of past actions, justice and retribution, the depths of grief and mourning, and the themes of atonement and redemption. It serves as a reminder of the importance of seeking reconciliation, honoring the deceased, and recognizing the long-lasting impact of historical events.