

Sunday Night Message

September 6, 2020

2 Samuel 21 – Gibeonites Revenge and Giant Killers

Topics – David

Series – *2 Samuel*

Introduction

Both of the stories found in chapter 21 are out of chronological order. In other words, the events that take place in chapter twenty take place long after the events that take place in chapter 22. As a matter of fact, the events discussed in vs. 15 – 22 take place before the event discussed in vs 1 – 14. The Bible does not always put together events chronologically, but there are reasons why certain passages are arranged the way they are. Like the four gospel accounts, the events in Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles need to be studied together in order to get a complete picture.

I. The Revenge of the Gibeonites (vs 1 – 14)

A. The Problem (v. 1)

There was a famine in the land for three years. David went to God in order to find out why.

Practical Note – when a lot of things are going wrong for you, it would be wise for you to go to God and find out why?

1. It could be something you are doing wrong.
2. There could be something going on in your family that you don't know about, but need to fix.

B. The Solution (vs. 1 – 3)

The solution was going to God, but God revealed to him that it had something to do with the Gibeonites, and what Saul did to them.

Note – see Joshua 9 - the Gibeonites were the people from Canaan that tricked Joshua into making a peace treaty with them, which was not what God wanted them to do.

Practical Note – pray before you make any major decisions.

Though the exact event is not recorded elsewhere in Scripture, Saul apparently tried to exterminate the Gibeonites, which was also against the will of God, because the people of Israel had made a covenant with them.

Practical Note – God expects you to keep your word.

God does not tell Davis specifically what he should do, but David goes to the Gibeonites and asks them what he could do to make up for what Saul had done to them. They ask for seven of Saul's sons (or grandchildren) to be put to death; specifically – hanged.

David will not give the Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, because of his covenant with Jonathan; but he does give them the five sons that Michal raised for Adriel, her sister Merab's husband (1. Samuel 18:19). Note – Michal had no children of her own (2 Samuel 6:23).

Notes from 2 Samuel 6:

Michal was given to David, and then after David was declared to be the enemy of Saul and Israel by Saul, she was then given by King Saul to another man. Many years had gone by and apparently Michal and this new husband, Phaltiel, developed a good marriage. In the meantime, David had married many other women. As part of David's negotiations with Abner and Israel, David demands to be given Michal back.

See 2 Samuel 3:13 – 16

So, Michal was used as a pawn by her Father, and now is being used as a pawn by David. She was taken away from the man who obviously loved her, and now she literally despises David. Later, the children that she raised for her sister, Merab, would be slaughtered in order to appease the Gibeonites (See 2 Samuel 21:7 – 9).

At the end of all of this, David takes all of the bodies, including the bodies of Saul and Jonathan, which were previously buried by the men of Jabeshgilead, and then buries them all with Saul's father Kish in the land of Benjamin.

Practical Notes

1. Saul's sin affected his family for generations to come.
 2. David could have chosen anybody from Saul's family, but for some reason he chooses somebody close to his wife, Michal. It seems that David was being more than a little mean-spirited here. He was perhaps, exacting a little revenge himself.
- II. The Rehearsing of David's War with the Philistine Giant (vs. 15 – 22; 1 Chronicles 20:4 - 8)**

This section of chapter 21 refers to David's battles with the Philistines. These eighteen verses refer to at least four separate campaigns against them. 2 Samuel 8:1 refers to these battles corporately:

"And after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them: and David took Methegammah out of the hand of the Philistines." (2 Samuel 8:1)

Notice the name, "Methegammah." It means "mother city;" or "the bridle of the metropolis;"¹ or "bridle of the mother, a figurative name for a chief city."² The chief city of the Philistines at this time was Gath. Note the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 18.

"Now after this it came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them, and took Gath and her towns out of the hand of the Philistines." (1 Chronicles 18:1)

David does not eradicate completely the Philistines, but he does eliminate them as a threat, and they are never referred to again in Scripture as a serious enemy to Israel.

¹ Stelman Smith and Judson Cornwall, *The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names* (North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos, 1998), 173.

² M. G. Easton, *Easton's Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).

The battles referred to here in these remaining verses of chapter 21 all have to do with the deaths of Goliath's family: three of his sons, and one brother. These people were all just as mean, ugly, and big as Goliath, and they all wanted payback: they were all itching to kill David.

Practical Note – when you do something great for God, you are hurting Satan; and when you hurt him, his followers will want to hurt you. Not everybody is going to be happy when something great happens spiritually. You can expect a counter-attack.

Note – the term “giant” used in these verses is “rapha,” which refers to the Rephaims, which were the descendants of Anak (Genesis 15:19 – 21). When the children of Israel entered into Canaan, there were said to be “giants” in the land.

The twelve Hebrew spies reported when they came back from spying out the land of Canaan:

“And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.” (Numbers 13:33)

“For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man.” (Deuteronomy 3:11)

A. Abishai (Joab’s brother) kills Ishbibenob (vs. 15 – 17)

Notice here that David “waxed faint”; he was getting tired. Chronologically, this is many years after David killed Goliath. David is older now.

Note – 300 shekels is approximately 7.5 pounds.

Easton - It is estimated at 220 English grains, or a little more than half an ounce avoirdupois.³

Lexham - The most common Old Testament measure of weight. Equaled approximately 8 grams (1/3 of an ounce).⁴

At the end of this campaign, David was forbidden by his men to go out into battle with them. (Note – this was before David’s sin with Bathsheba.)

Note the phrase light of Israel:

“David, who with God’s help brought the light of prosperity and well-being to the whole land of Israel, was the symbol of Israel’s hope and promise of security. Continued blessing resided in David and his house.”⁵

*“And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a **light** alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.”* (1 Kings 11:36)

³ M. G. Easton, *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).

⁴ Major Contributors and Editors, “Shekel,” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

⁵ John MacArthur Jr., ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 460.

"Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem:" (1 Kings 15:4)

"Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him alway a light, and to his children." (2 Kings 8:19)

- B. Sibbechai the Hushathite kills Saph (v. 18)
- C. Elhanan the Bethlehemite kills *the brother* of Goliath (v. 19)

According to 1 Chronicles 20:5, his name was Lahmi.

Note - “weaver’s beam” – “round wooden roller on which the cloth or carpet was wound during the weaving process in Bible times. The spears of the giant Goliath (1 Sm 17:7; 2 Sm 21:19; 1 Chr 20:5) and an Egyptian killed by Benaiah, one of David’s mighty men (1 Chr 11:23) were compared to a weaver’s beam.”⁶ His spear’s head weighed 600 shekels of iron, which is equivalent to 15 pounds.

- D. Jonathan (David’s nephew) kills the son with six fingers and six toes (vs. 20 – 21)

Notice in verse 22, the Scripture says that these four were all born unto the giant, but Lahmi was said to be the Goliath’s brother.

Practical Note – When David killed Goliath, there was nobody else in Israel willing to fight the giant. Israel was frozen in fear. Now, however, there are four different men attributed with killing these members of Goliath’s family. David’s faith inspired the faith of his men.

It’s great to be a giant killer yourself, but it’s even better for you to be an inspiration to many future giant killers.

Christians, you and I are to live and serve God ourselves, and by doing so, we will be an inspiration to others who follow in our footsteps; but, we have to give them something to follow.

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." (Hebrews 13:7)

What are you inspiring the next generation to do.

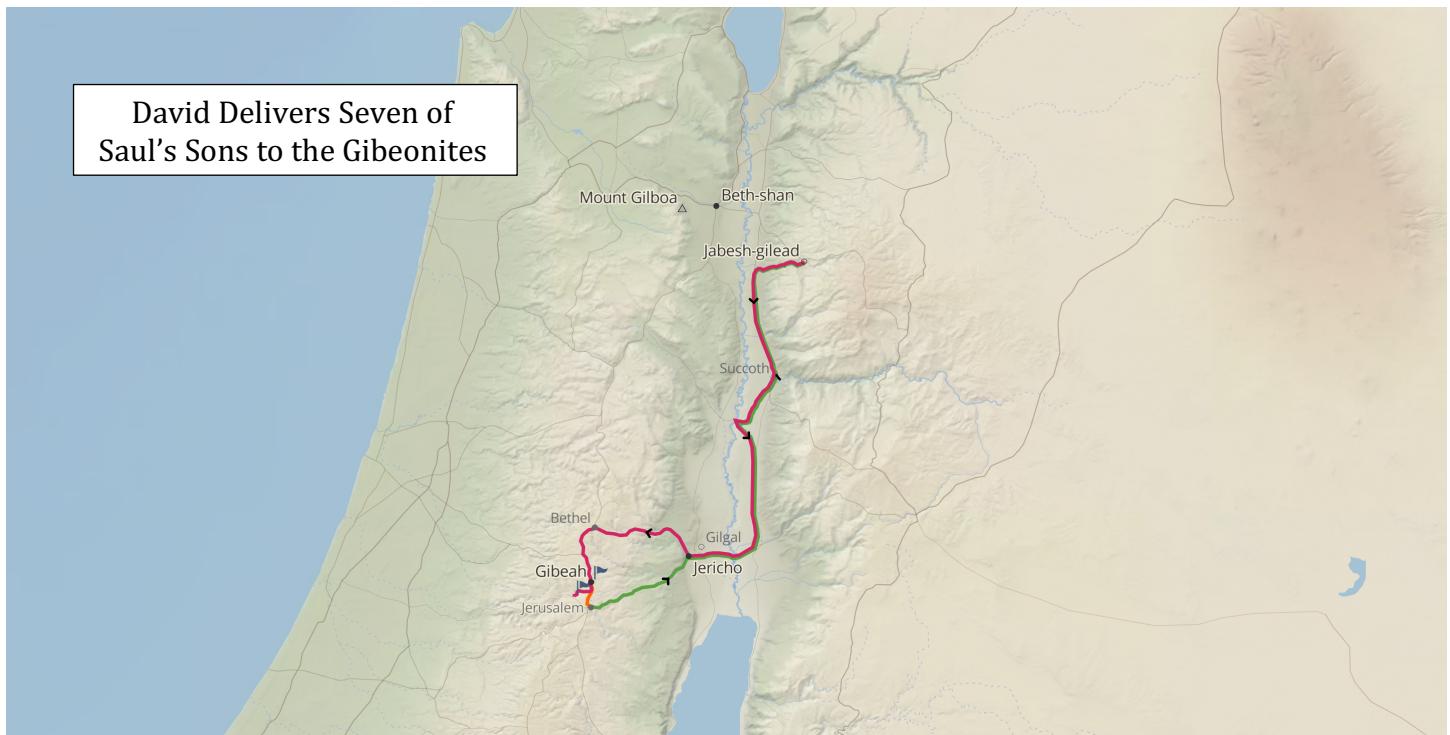
"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." (John 14:12)

Illustration – When I came to Galloway it was just me and my family, and shortly after Brother Ted arrived. My goal is that when I leave here someday, there will be dozens of people doing what I did.

At the wedding yesterday, I was encouraged by the groomsmen that were lined up behind Brandon. Justin, Issan, Justin E, Steven, Gerald, Larry, and Khyle. These are young giant killers.

⁶ Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “Beam,” *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 270.

**David Delivers Seven of
Saul's Sons to the Gibeonites**



**David's Encounters
with the Philistines**

