

Ultimate Justice

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2 Samuel 21:1-14

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Introduction

- David is fixing his kingdom after Absalom's rebellion^{2S16-18}
- contrasting sections: 2 Sam 1-8 David's kingdom building to pinnacle vs. 2 Sam 9-20 the rebuilding of the kingdom after sin
- This is not an easy narrative - shocking, challenging...
- Appears to contradict Dt24:16; Skeptics like to ask, "how could God?..."
- This is God's Word^{2Tim3:16-17} so let us learn from this passage!

The Crisis: an extended famine

- This section thematic, not chronological
- Famine during David's reign - after 2 Sam 9 most likely
- David responded seeking face of the Lord¹. Today James 5:13-16

The Bloodguilt

- God was merciful and answered David². God answers us^{In16:8;Psa139:23-24} in Word
- Saul's sins against Gibeonites broke cutting covenant^{Josh9:6-15} of Joshua
- Animals divided: Abraham^{Gen15:7-18} covenant breakers get same fate
- Saul had violated Israel's cutting covenant discrediting God's Holy Name
- God had been patient and now reveals sin...
- God's patience is to prompt us to repentance^{Rom2:4}

The Gore of Atonement

- Saul broke covenant = curses^{Dt28:15-68}; David seeks solution
- Israelites were foolish in cutting covenant w/ Gibeonites^{Josh9:14} but they did so covenant was in the Lord's name^{Josh9:18}
- Gibeonites were among Israelites^{Josh9:21} and apparently learned God's ways
- Their answer understood God's demand for atonement^{Ex21:23-25;Lev24:17-20;Dt19:21}
- Monetary ransom would have been useless^{Num35:31-34} required blood^{Gen9:6}
- 7 representatives of Saul's house to hang as covenant breakers^{Dt21:23}
- Mercy through covenant faithfulness to Mephibosheth^{1S20:14-17}
- We also receive mercy by Jesus' covenant faithfulness^{Jn6:39;10:28}
- 7 men: Armoni, Mephibosheth^{Saul'sSon}, 5 sons of Merab^{Saul's oldest daughter}

Wrapup

- Horrible scene: Rizpah watching over hung corpses¹⁰ Atonement is costly!
- David hears of Rizpah and responds w/ mercy of burying bones^{1S31:10-13;2S21:13}

So What?

- David did his best at justice in this sin-disordered world... leaves us wanting!
- Remember truth: Rom 15:4 *that we might have hope!*
- We are all under curse of death^{Rom5:12;6:23;Gen3:17-19}
- In NT we find hope provided by God Himself^{John1:29} from curse of death^{Gen2:17}
- God promised a solution in the Garden^{Gen3:15}
- All Scripture points to David's Greater Son Jesus^{1Pet1:18-19}
- Atonement is gory^{Lev1:3-9} whether animal or Calvary^{Lk23:32-33}
- Let God's mercy in providing atonement through Jesus drive us to holiness!