

Lives Squandered and Salvaged

2 Samuel 21:1-22

- 3rd part of the book:
 - Ch. 1-10 – successes
 - Ch. 11-20 – sins
 - Ch. 21-24 – things pertaining to the reign of D
- These chapters form an appendix if you will – not necessarily in order.

1. Famine – v. 1-9

- 1: another shameful section: why wait 3 years? Saul thought Joshua 9:24 still in effect regarding eradicating Gibeonites; Saul wantonly violated
- 2: D made the same mistake Joshua made by not seeking the Lord, Joshua 9:14. Pagans never give a correct answer.
- 3: not doing God's command on this answer.
- 6: hang: not exactly known: some brutal, inhuman punishment common among the heathen; left bodies exposed (Coffman:) from March 21st to autumn rains, violating Dt. 21:22-23.
- Very stupid request as they were in a period of perpetual slavery – why not request that to end? Only 7 (complete) signifies a token.
- 8: Rizpah: one of Saul's concubines (2S 3:7-11); had a son also named Mephibosheth.
- Merab instead of Michal.
- Different Barzillai.
- 9: mercifully not given details; God never requested these 7 to be killed. Clarke identified this as the Vernal Equinox wheat harvest. Begins at Pentecost.

2. Guarding – v. 10-14

- No greater example of motherly love found on any page of literature. Rudyard Kipling:
 - If I were hanged on the highest hill,
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!
I know whose love would follow me still,
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!
- 10: rains usually came late Nov./early Dec., a 6-month vigil over the bodies.
- "The bones of the hanged" may mean actual bones or a euphemism for the decaying bodies.

3. Safety – v. 15-22

- Exact timing is unknown. Josephus said D was covered by the shield as Abishai slew the giant.
- 16: 300 shekels of bronze: 7.5-8lbs
- Giants: people who inhabited Canaan in pre-Israelite times.
- 19: contradiction? NO. 1] 1C 20:5 states that Elhanan slew Lahmi the brother of Goliath; 2] Elhanan & D could be the name of the same people [Solomon/Jedidiah]; 3] Goliath could be a name worn by more than one giant or the name of a certain type of soldier.
- 22: significant D is mentioned as the one who killed giants – in harmony with 1S 17.

Lessons:

1. When trying to figure out what to do, the thing to never do is consult the enemy. We should always enquire with God's commands.
2. Rizpah's love teaches us today the true extent of a mother's love. Do we love anyone to this degree?
3. "Scholars" are looking for any excuse to claim the Bible contradicts itself. Yet under careful examination there is no contradiction. No other book could be written over 1600 years, with 40 authors on 3 continents and never contradict itself!

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