

Multiple Murders

2 Samuel 4:1-12

- Who wrote 2 Samuel (2S)? Possibly Nathan and Gad, 1 Chronicles 29:29, possibly around 950BC during the reign of Solomon.
- 1S and 2S were originally one long book; divided to make study easier, divided c250BC in LXX.
- Events in 1S and 2S occurred c1050-961BC.
- Key term: David – over 200x.

1. News Travels – v. 1-4

- 1: near end of kingdom of Ishbosheth
- 2: Amorites/Canaanites: Gibeonite's story recorded in Joshua 9; deceived Israel into making a covenant with them; S persecuted.
- 3: 40-acre site se of Ras Abu Amid
- 4: parenthesis: shows the house of S had been reduced to a cripple, lays foundation for Ch. 9

2. One Death – v. 5-8

- 5: mercenary raiders employed by Ishbosheth
- 6: motivation: residual hatred in their hearts for S's persecution of their people
- 7: no doubt intended to be richly rewarded; how disgusting
- 8: evil men had no regard either for God or D's honor; evil men pretending to obey God's Word when they are actually God's enemies.

3. More Deaths – v. 9-12

- 9: D has every right to be outraged
- 3-point response: 1] own experience in the Lord
- 10: 2] precedent already established in dealing w/ Amalekite
- 3] contrast: S wicked; Isbosheth righteous
- Brothers should have anticipated D's response.
- 11: require blood; hold murderer guilty & execute him, Gen. 9:51; Ps. 91:2. Command to be executed, Gen. 9:6. Not an option but a divine command! Unavenged blood cried, 4:10
- 12: divinely ordered, politically necessary. If murderers go unpunished, they gov't crumbles in the opinion of the subjects.

Lessons:

1. We must be careful of our actions, or they can have generations-later-consequences. Saul's actions caused his family troubles years later.
2. When we sin, we should not rejoice in it and brag about it to other people. We should be ashamed of our sins and repent of them.
3. The slain blood of the righteous is known by God – and One Day He will make right all wrongs! Let us long for that day!

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