

- I) V1-2 INTRO: Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year
  - a) CONTEXT: Israel has experienced 3 years of famine, and David asks God why
    - 1) It is obvious that David thought that God might be behind it
  
- II) KEY: This because he knew that the God he worshiped is the God who rules over nature
  - a) The history of Israel revealed that God is not part of nature, but rules over all of nature
    - 1) Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth
    - 2) Ps 102:25 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens *are* the work of Your hands
  
- III) DAVID KNEW: That God was the Creator, and that God would use nature to fulfill His own purposes
  - a) He knew that famine could very well be the result of God bringing judgment on Israel
    - 1) Ezek 14:13 When a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, *send famine on it*, and cut off man and beast from it.
  
- IV) WHAT DID HE DO: He wisely took his concern before the Lord and inquired of Him about it
  - a) HE KNEW: If God is behind it he could seek mercy from the Lord
    - 1) Ps 33:18-19 Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to *keep them alive in famine*.
  
- V) V1 AND: *The LORD answered* It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house *because he killed*
  - a) KEY: The famine has been sent because of the former king, Saul: he had killed the Gibeonites
    - 1) GIBEONITES: Were in the land when Israel under Joshua came to possess it (Joshua 9)
    - 2) 400 years earlier they had deceived Joshua, making him think that they lived a great distance away
    - 3) Without praying about it, a treaty was made, sparing them: Saul had violated this covenant
  
- VI) KEY: Though this incident is not specifically recorded, Saul obviously had violated the treaty
  - a) KEY: God had responded, because *He takes His word seriously*
    - 1) SOME DON'T: The kids were lined up in the cafeteria of a Christian elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The teacher had made a note, and posted on the apple tray: Take only ONE. *God is watching*. Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'
  
- VII) FACT: Joshua's oath was to be kept, and Saul broke the oath, violating the agreement that had been made
  - a) Nu 30:2 If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, *he shall not break his word*; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.
  - b) Dt 5:11 You shall not take the name of the LORD your *God in vain*, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name *in vain*.
    - 1) God brings a famine because of Saul's sin: others are affected because of his disobedience
  
- VIII) V3-4 THEREFORE: David said to the Gibeonites *What shall I do* for you And with what shall I make
  - a) David asks the Gibeonites: what can I do to cover up Saul's sin and satisfy your anger
    - 1) QUESTION: What is it going to take for you *to forgive* Israel and actually *bless* the nation?
  
- VIII) V4 AND: The Gibeonites said to him We will have no silver or gold from Saul or from his house
  - a) ANSWER: We are not willing to accept monetary payment, nor want you to exact justice for us
    - 1) Money does not replace lives, and not just any death will satisfy us!

- 2) David says he is open to hearing more
- I) V5-6 THEN: They answered the king As for the man who consumed us and plotted against us
- a) Seven is not the amount of Gibeonites who were killed by Saul, but symbolizes *completeness*
    - 1) POINT: They will execute these men, and justice will be served and they will be satisfied
    - 2) ALSO: This will also remove God's anger over Saul's sin
- II) V7 BUT: The king spared Mephibosheth *the son of Jonathan* the son of Saul because of the LORD'S
- a) It was David's option which descendants to deliver to the Gibeonites, so he spares Mephibosheth
    - 1) 1 Sa 20:14-17 You shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth. So Jonathan made *a covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, Let the LORD require *it* at the hand of David's enemies. Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.
- III) V8-9 SO: The king took Armoni and Mephibosheth the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah
- a) Armoni and Mephibosheth were sons of one of Saul's concubines, Rizpah (2 Sa 3:7)
    - 1) The five sons of Michal, David's first wife were not born to Michal, but to her sister Merab
    - 2) Merab had married Adriel, had died and left her sons in her sister Michal's care
    - 3) These young men were put to death, in open humiliation, about the time of Passover (April)
- IV) V10 NOW: Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock from the
- a) This could be as long as from April to October: she sat under a canopy, protecting the bodies
    - 1) For six months, this devoted mother stood vigil over the decaying bodies of her sons
- V) V11-14 AND: David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah the concubine of Saul had done
- a) This moved David to compassion, stirring him to give an honorable burial to Saul and sons
- VI) V12 THEN: David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from the men
- a) REMEMBER: When Saul and his sons died, their bodies were hung on the walls of Beth Shan
    - 1) The men of Jabesh Gilead had taken the bodies, cremated them, and buried the bones (1 Sa 31:8-13)
      - 2) They took the remains, and buried them in an honorable way
      - 3) RESULT: God heeded the prayer for the land, by ending the famine
- VII) APPLICATION: It is interesting how this worked out to remove anger, obtain forgiveness and blessing
- a) God was angry over sin: His word was disregarded and violated
  - b) Atonement (propitiation) had to be made to bring satisfaction and reconciliation
  - c) Gold and silver was not desired because only death would satisfy the anger
  - d) They were hanged (impaled) on a hill, as a spectacle, and in a humiliating way
  - e) It took place around the season of Passover
  - f) Anger was satisfied on both man's part, and God's part
  - g) As a result, God heeded the prayer for the land, and once again brought blessings
- VIII) FIRST: God was angry over sin because His word was violated
- a) Lev 18:5 My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I *am* the LORD
  - b) Jn 5:24 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life
- SECOND: Atonement had to be made to bring satisfaction and reconciliation (Jesus died to do this)

- a) Jesus died on the cross to provide atonement and propitiation
- I) THIRD: Gold and silver was not enough because redemption is extremely costly
  - a) 1 Pe 1:18-19 Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot
  - b) Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
- II) FOURTH: They were hanged (impaled) on a hill as a humiliating public display
  - a) Jesus was placed on a cross on Calvary in full public view
- III) FIFTH: It took place at Passover
  - a) 1 Co 5:7 Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us
- IV) SIXTH: Anger was satisfied
  - a) 1 Jn 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.
- V) SEVENTH: God heeded the prayer for the land, and once again blessed
  - a) It is through Jesus that God is satisfied, and blesses
    - 1) Ro 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things
- VI) OF COURSE: During the time of Jesus, thousands died on a cross but did not bring atonement
  - a) Just any death did not satisfy God's righteous demands, but a very special death
    - 1) Jn 12:32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself.