LESIONS THIS QUARTER

1) 03 Jun 2018. 2Sam 1-2. Respected
2) 10 Jun. 2Sam 3-4. Crowned
3) 17 Jun. 2Sam 5-6. Celebrated
4) 24 Jun. 2Sam 7-8. Established
5) 01 Jul. 2Sam 9-10. Valued
6) 08 Jul. 2Sam 11-12. Accountable
7) 15 Jul. 2Sam 13-14. Grieved
8) 22 Jul. 2Sam 15-17. Deposed
9) 29 Jul. 2Sam 18-19. Restored
10) 05 Aug. 2Sam 20. Averted
11) 12 Aug. 2Sam 21. Resolved
12) 19 Aug. 2Sam 22-23. Thankful
13) 26 Aug. 2Sam 24. Disciplined

INTRODUCTION

- God seeks justice for an injustice done on the Gibeonites by King Saul. It seems strange that seven of Saul’s sons and grandsons must be hanged for his failure.

  - First Dilemma: Doesn’t Scripture say that people will pay for their own sins? Recall Ezekiel 18:20. The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

  - Second Dilemma: When is a famine or other natural catastrophe such as fires, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc., deemed a disciplinary act of God & not a natural phenomenon?

- And why such severity? This seems awfully ISIS or Talibani-ish.

Common Sense Hermeneutics

- When we tackle these tough topics, we must acknowledge several considerations to try to come to the correct interpretation:
  1. God does work differently at different times. Heb 1:1-2
  2. God treats His people, the Israelites, different from most other nations and people groups, including Christians. Lev 24:8
  3. Historical Consideration. This incident of justice was during the Davidic Covenant, before Ezekiel 18 was written, and before the Age of Grace, when other commands had primacy. Recall Exodus 34:6-7 “...the LORD God [is] merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third & to the fourth generation.”
  4. God’s justice was appealed by the death of Saul’s progeny as He was eventually “moved by prayer for the land.”
  5. This carriage of justice may seem bizarre to us, and it is not applicable for us today, BUT we can glean insight into God’s unchanging character regarding justice, mercy, and grace.

Passage | Comments
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2Samuel 21:1 | A 3-year Famine Grabs David’s Attention
  - v1. Scripture is silent how God conveyed to David so clearly that the reason for the famine was because of Saul’s injustice to the Gibeonites. Was it by: The Urim and Thummim? Thephod? The Casting of Lots or Dice? The Mercy Seat? Prophetic Utterance? Dreams & Visions?

Prophetic Gear | Urim & Thummim. There is no record how the they were constructed, nor of their form. The first mention of them is in Ex 28:30 “You shall put in [or 'on'] the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron’s heart when he goes before the Lord.” Possibly they were stones which were tossed like dice to determine God’s leading
  - Ephod. Priestly garment made of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine gold-twill linen, worn between the tunic & the breastplate, and held the Urim & Thummim. Ex 28:6-12; 1Sam 30:7-8

21:14 | ...and God’s Wrath was Appeased
  - Some look at this carriage of justice as symbolic to the Cross
  - God’s wrath was also appeased after His Son was hanged
  - It seems strange how the death of these innocent victims (including Christ) paid for the crimes of others
  - Paul called it a “Mystery” revealed in Christ.

21:18-22 | Goliath’s Sons Meet Their Demise
  - Goliath’s 4 sons also perished because they were just like their Dad and were bent on Israel’s destruction
  - What does it take to break the generational curse?
  - Live by God’s word | Hope for the Best | Pray

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- God’s ways do change over time, but His holy, just, merciful, and loving character is the same yesterday, today, forever.

NEXT WEEK: 2Samuel 22-23. Chapter 22 mirrors Psalm 18 – David’s gratitude for God’s ability to rescue and restore. And Chapter 23 capture David’s final words – and a recap of his mighty men of valor.

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At times the Bible doesn’t make sense to us mere mortals.