

LESSONS 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 Taliban'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 appeased by the death of Saul's progeny as He was eventually "moved by prayer for the land"..... **v14**
 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
2Samuel 21:1	<p>A 3-year Famine Grabs David's Attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Urim and Thummim? <input type="checkbox"/> The Ephod? <input type="checkbox"/> The Casting of Lots or Dice? <input type="checkbox"/> The Mercy Seat? <input type="checkbox"/> Prophetic Utterance? <input type="checkbox"/> Dreams & Visions?
Prophetic Gear	<p>Urim & Thummim. There is no record how they were constructed, nor of their form. The first mention of them is in Ex 28:30 "You shalt 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</p> <p>Ephod. Priestly garment made of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine gold-twined linen, worn between the tunic & the breastplate, and held the Urim & Thummin Ex 28:6-12; 1Sam 30:7-8</p>

Passage	Comments
	<p>The Ark's Mercy Seat. Ex 25:21-22 "Set the Atonement-Cover as a lid over the Chest and place in the Chest the Testimony that I will give you. I will meet you there at set times and speak with you from above the Atonement-Cover and from between the angel-figures that are on it, speaking the commands that I have for the Israelites [MSG]"</p> <p>Such practices seem bizarre to us today, similar to flipping a coin. BUT the Bible does state that the "casting of lots is in God's hands" (Prov 16:33), and "the lot puts an end to contention" (Prov 18:18).</p> <p>We don't have ephods, the Mercy Seat, or Urim & Thummim, so how should we seek God's guidance today?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Should we Pray? <input type="checkbox"/> Should we flip a coin? <input type="checkbox"/> Should we consult Scripture? <input type="checkbox"/> Or friends?</p>
21:2-13	<p>Eeny, Meeny, Miny, Moe – Seven Die except Mephibo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David had to select which of Saul's sons and grandsons to hand over to the executioners • Two of the 7 men who died were sons of Rizpah, one of Saul's concubines – and she was the only mother mentioned who sought dignity for those 7 men <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This dear woman was a sex slave (concubine) to Saul, was raped by Saul's commanding general (Abner, 2Sam 3:7), and saw her 2 sons killed for what Saul did. Life was hard for her, yet she tended to the bodies. This enticed David to properly bury those men, along with Saul, & Jonathan ♦ What do you do when life is a torment for you? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make do <input type="checkbox"/> Repay in kind <input type="checkbox"/> Turn inward <input type="checkbox"/> Bring comfort to others <input type="checkbox"/> Stay focused on God
21:14	<p>...and God's Wrath was Appeased</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some look at this carriage of justice as symbolic to the Cross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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..... Col 1:26
21:15-17	<p>David's Age Catches Up with Him</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War is for young men – and David was too valuable to lose • Age does impact one's physical performance, but with age comes wisdom for those who live righteously Prov 16:31
21:18-22	<p>Goliath's Sons Meet Their Demise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Live by God's word <input type="checkbox"/> Hope for the Best <input type="checkbox"/> 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 might men of valor.

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