

We will now begin the seventeenth lecture on the Books of Samuel. /Today we will begin with 2 Samuel chapter 21. /The title is, "The Three-Year Famine." /Let's look at the main points.

/First, there is a three-year famine for Saul's sin in killing the Gibeonites. /Verses 1-2.
/Second, David gives seven of Saul's descendants to the Gibeonites. /Verses 3-9. /Third, Rizpah protects the dead. /Verse 10.

/Fourth, David buries the seven bodies, and Saul and Jonathan's bones. /Verses 11-14.
/Fifth, Abishai saves David when the Philistines try to kill David. /Verses 15-17. /Sixth, David's men kill the soldiers of Gath. /Verses 18-22.

/Read verse 1. /During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so David sought the face of the LORD. The LORD said, "It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death."

/During the reign of David, there was a great famine for three years. /David prayed to God. /God said that there was a famine because Saul put the Gibeonites to death. /Joshua 9:3-27. /There was a famine because of Saul's sin.

/Verse 2. /The king summoned the Gibeonites and spoke to them. (Now the Gibeonites were not a part of Israel but were survivors of the Amorites; the Israelites had sworn to [spare] them, but Saul in his zeal for Israel and Judah had tried to annihilate them.)

/The Gibeonites were one of the seven tribes of Canaan. /The Gibeonites made a peace treaty with Joshua. /Joshua 9:9-15. /However, Saul broke the treaty. /Saul killed the Gibeonites. /Thus, God was angry, and sent a famine over Israel for three years.

/Verse 3. /David asked the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? How shall I make amends so that you will bless the LORD's inheritance?"

/David asked the Gibeonites for their opinion in order to solve the problem. /The Gibeonites asked for seven descendants of Saul. /Hence, David sent seven of Saul's descendants to the Gibeonites.

/Verse 10. /Rizpah daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on a rock. From the beginning of the harvest till the rain poured down from the heavens on the bodies, she did not let the birds of the air touch them by day or the wild animals by night.

/Saul's concubine Rizpah protected the bodies of the dead. /There was the possibility that the bodies would be damaged by wild animals.

/Verse 11. /When David was told what Aiah's daughter Rizpah, Saul's concubine, had done,

/David heard about Rizpah's actions. /Hence, David ordered that Saul and Jonathan's

bones be brought from Jabesh Gilead. /David gave their bones a proper burial.

/Verse 14. /They buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the tomb of Saul's father Kish, at Zela in Benjamin, and did everything the king commanded. After that, God answered prayer in behalf of the land.

/Then God answered prayer in behalf of the land. / The people were saved from famine.

/Verse 15. /Once again there was a battle between the Philistines and Israel. David went down with his men to fight against the Philistines, and he became exhausted.

/Verses 15-22 record the war between Israel and the Philistines. /The Philistines wanted to kill David. /In verse 17, Abishai helped David. As a result, David did not die. /Abishai was courageous and he protected David.

/Verse 18. /In the course of time, there was another battle with the Philistines, at Gob. At that time Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph, one of the descendants of Rapha.

/The Philistines attacked Israel again. /David's men gained victory in every battle. /The Philistines were strong and powerful, but David's men gained victory by God's grace.

/No matter how strong the enemies were, David's men always won because God helped them. /We too must win the good fight by trusting in God.

/We will continue with 2 Samuel chapter 22. /The title is, "David's Song of Praise."
/Let's look at the main points.

/First, God is the rock, the horn of salvation. /Verses 1-3. /Second, God delivers his people from death and Sheol. /Verses 4-7. /Third, God's majesty in nature. /Verses 8-16. /Fourth, God gives rewards according to righteousness. /Verses 17-25.

/Fifth, David relies on God and scales a wall. /Verses 29-37. /Seventh, God grants defeat over his enemies. /Verses 38-45. /Eighth, David praises the Lord's name among the nations. /Verses 50-51.

/Read verse 1. /David sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.

/God delivered David from the hands of all his enemies. /David remembered God's grace in delivering him from the hands of his enemies and from the hand of Saul. /David sang praises of thanksgiving to God. /The contents of this chapter are also written in Psalm 18:2-50.

/Verse 2. /He said: "The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;

/David made God his rock. /He said, "God is my fortress and my deliverer." /David fully

relied on God in times of troubles.

/We too must rely on God, who is the eternal rock, when we encounter difficulties in this world. /We must rely on the Almighty God. /We must believe in God's word and obey. /We must rely on God and win the good fight.

/Verse 4. /I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

/God saved David from his troubles and hardships. /Hence, David praised God.

/Verse 5. /"The waves of death swirled about me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

/At times, the waves of death swirled around David. David almost died many times. /God saved him each time. David walked through the valley of the shadow of death. /God protected and saved David in such difficult times.

/Verse 8. /"The earth trembled and quaked, the foundations of the heavens shook; they trembled because he was angry.

/God hears our prayers. /God hears our cries. /Therefore, we must not be afraid of the environment. /We must not be afraid because we are weak in power. /We must rely on God's power. /We must not be afraid but go forward.

/Verse 14. /The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded.

/God judges this wicked world. /God judges our enemies. /We must believe that we will win when we trust in the Lord.

/Verse 17. /"He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters.

/God saves us, and he shows us that he is a living God. /God saved David in times of hardships.

/Verse 19. /They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the LORD was my support.

/God saved David from the day of his disaster. /David relied only on God in times of difficulties. /It is no use to rely on other things in times of difficulties. /We must rely only on God in times of hardships. /Then God will lead us to a spacious place. /He will lead us to a peaceful road.

/Verse 21. /"The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me.

/Verse 22 says that David kept the ways of God. /David did not leave God. /We too must

obey God's word and walk with God.

/Verse 26. /"To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless,

/God gives according to one's acts. /God shows himself faithful to the faithful, /God shows himself blameless to the blameless, /and God shows himself pure to the pure. /In verse 17, it says that the Lord shows himself shrewd to the crooked.

/Verse 28. /You save the humble, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.

/The "humble" refer to those who are poor and gentle. /We must always be humble and gentle.

/Verse 29. /You are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light.

/God is our lamp. /David was in darkness and hardships, but God led him to the light. /David relied only on God and looked only upon God. /David relied on God and gained victory in battle.

/Verse 38. /"I pursued my enemies and crushed them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed.

/David won in battle by God's grace. /God worked as David defeated his enemies. /The enemies surrendered before David.

/Verse 47. /"The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God, the Rock, my Savior!

/David gave thanks and praises to God for delivering him from his hardships.

/Verse 51. /He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed, to David and his descendants forever."

/David praised God for showing him unfailing kindness. /David believed that God would bless his descendants as well. /David also believed that God would show unfailing kindness to believers of Christ. /David praised God.

/We will continue with 2 Samuel chapter 23. /The title is, "David's Last Words." /Let's look at the main points.

/First, those who fear God and act righteously will be well. /Verses 1-4. /Second, salvation for David's house, and granting of every desire. /Verse 5. /Third, the evil will be destroyed. /Verses 6-7. /Fourth, David's three mighty men and their services. /Verses 8-12.

/Fifth, the three mighty men bring water from the well at Bethlehem. /Verses 13-17.
/Sixth, Abishai and Benaiah's contributions. /Verses 18-23. /Seventh, David's 37 mighty men. /Verses 24-39.

/Read verse 1. /These are the last words of David: "The oracle of David son of Jesse, the oracle of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, Israel's singer of songs:

/David gave thanks for God's grace, and he spoke his last words. /David was originally a shepherd. /He was a lowly man. /Yet, by God's grace, David became king of Israel.

/God lifted David up. /We too must believe that everything is God's grace. /1 Corinthians 15:9-10. /Ephesians 3:8. /1 Timothy 1:15. /We must all think about our background and past. /How much has God lifted you up today? /Everything is God's grace.

/Verse 3. /The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: 'When one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God,

/God is Israel's refuge, and he protects Israel. /David ruled over men in righteousness.

/Verse 4. /he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth.'

/God made everything good for David.

/Verse 5. /"Is not my house right with God? Has he not made with me an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part? Will he not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire?

/God built up the house of David. /God made an everlasting covenant with David. /God saved David. /The "everlasting covenant" is the covenant of Christ. /This meant that God would send Christ from among David's descendants.

/Verse 6. /But evil men are all to be cast aside like thorns, which are not gathered with the hand.

/The evil are like thorns. /God would judge them. /God would burn them and judge them.

/Verse 8. /These are the names of David's mighty men: Josheb-Basshebeth, a Tahkemonite, was chief of the Three; he raised his spear against eight hundred men, whom he killed in one encounter.

/From verses 8-39 are the names of the mighty men of Israel. /1 Chronicles 11:10. /The first mighty man is Josheb-Basshebeth. /1 Chronicles 11:11. /He killed 800 enemies. /1 Chronicles 11:11 says that he killed 300 men.

/The number “300” refers to the number of men that he killed in one encounter. /The number “800” refers to the number of men that he killed in total.

/Verse 9. /Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty men, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered [at Pas Dammim] for battle. Then the men of Israel retreated,

/The second mighty man is Eleazar. /Eleazar was faithful to the point of fighting with his life. /The Israelites retreated at the time. /Yet, Eleazar remained and laid down his life for God’s kingdom.

/Verse 11. /Next to him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them.

/The third mighty man was Shammah. /The Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils. /At the time, the Israelites fled from them. /However, Shammah remained in the middle of the field and defeated the enemies.

/He relied only on God. He wanted to protect the land that God gave them. /We too must be faithful and fight the good fight with the power of God. /We must lay down our lives and fight the good fight. /Ephesians 6:10. /1 Samuel 14:6. /Psalm 33:16-17.

/Verse 13. /During harvest time, three of the thirty chief men came down to David at the cave of Adullam, while a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

/Next, it lists three men from among the thirty chief men. /They were Abishai, Benaiah, and another fighter. /In verse 14, these three men went to get water from the well near Bethlehem when David was in the stronghold. /The three men broke through the Philistines lines and brought water for David.

/The three men laid down their lives and broke through the enemy’s lines to get water. They treasured David. /However, in verse 16, it says that David did not drink the water. /David poured the water before the LORD. /2 Timothy 4:6. /We must give glory to God.

/Verse 18. /Abishai the brother of Joab son of Zeruiah was chief of the Three. He raised his spear against three hundred men, whom he killed, and so he became as famous as the Three.

/Joab’s brother Abishai was also a mighty man. He killed 300 of his enemies.

/Verse 20. /Benaiah son of Jehoiada was a valiant fighter from Kabzeel, who performed great exploits. He struck down two of Moab's best men. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion.

/Benaiah was also a mighty man. He did great things. /He was put in charge of David’s

bodyguard. /He later became a commander of the army in Solomon's time. /He also laid down his life before God and was faithful. /The efforts of these mighty men would remain forever in God's kingdom.

/Verse 24. /Among the Thirty were: Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan son of Dodo from Bethlehem,

/Verses 24-37 list the names of David's men. /These men were faithful for the kingdom of God. /Here it says that there was Asahel, the brother of Joab. /In verse 34 is Eliam son of Ahithophel.

/Verse 39. /and Uriah the Hittite. There were thirty-seven in all.

/Here there is Uriah the Hittite. /He was Bathsheba's husband. /Uriah was a faithful servant. /He was a great fighter. /There were 37 mighty men. /There are three who are listed in verses 8-12. /There are two who are listed in verses 18-23.

/There are thirty-two listed in verses 24-39. /All together there were 37 mighty men. /However, verses 23-24 say that there were 30 soldiers. /1 Chronicles 27:7 says that there were more men of David. /The number "30" is most likely a basic number.

/More men were recruited thereafter. /What is important here is that these men laid down their lives for God's kingdom, and they were warriors of the good fight. /We too must become warriors of the good fight for God's kingdom. /We too must win the good fight daily.

/We will continue with 2 Samuel chapter 24. /The title is, "The Census." /Let's look at the main points.

/First, David conducts a census. /Verses 1-9. /Second, David's repentance, and God's punishment. /Verses 10-15. /Third, God shows mercy after the punishment. /Verses 16-17. /Fourth, David gives offerings on the threshing floor of Araunah.

/Read verse 1. /Again the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, "Go and take a census of Israel and Judah."

/It says, "he incited David against them." /This means, "stir up, encourage, instigate." /1 Chronicles 21:1. /God allowed Satan to incite David.

/Thus, David conducted a census. /God sometimes lets Satan temporarily take over believers. /This is to make believers recognize their corruptness and repent.

/It is also to refine believers and give them greater blessings. /Then why did David want to conduct a census? /First, David did not rely on God, but wanted to rely on the number and population of the people.

/Second, David did not do things with strength from God, but wanted to do God's works with man's strength. /Third, David did not boast of God, but wanted to boast of his own powers. /Jeremiah 17:5-6.

/Verse 3. /But Joab replied to the king, "May the LORD your God multiply the troops a hundred times over, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king want to do such a thing?"

/David commanded the commander of the army to take a census. /However, Joab the commander of the army was against it. /Joab made a suggestion to the king. /Still, David insisted that Joab take a census.

/Verse 8. /After they had gone through the entire land, they came back to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

/Joan completed the census in nine months and twenty days. /1 Chronicles 21:6.

/Verse 9. /Joab reported the number of the fighting men to the king: In Israel there were eight hundred thousand able-bodied men who could handle a sword, and in Judah five hundred thousand.

/Joab reported that there were 800,000 Israelites, /500,000 men of Judah, /and there were 1,300,000 in total. /Yet, 1 Chronicles 21:5 says that there were 1,100,000 Israelites, /470,000 men of Judah, /and 1,570,000 in total.

/In 1 Chronicles, there are 300,000 more Israelites, /and 30,000 less men of Judah. /This was because the number of Israelites included the foreign peoples. /The number of the men of Judah was smaller because they excluded the Levites and the Benjamites in the census. /1 Chronicles 21:6.

/Verse 10. /David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, O LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

/David repented before God for taking a census. /If God had commanded David to take a census, it would have been all right for him to have done so. /Yet, God did not command David to take a census, and David did so anyway. /Exodus 3:11. /Numbers 1:31. /Numbers 26:2, 53.

/If God commanded David to conduct a census, it would have been all right for David to have done so. /However, David conducted a census when God did not command him to. /David boasted of his authority. /David did not rely on God, but attempted to rely on his many soldiers.

/Verse 11. /Before David got up the next morning, the word of the LORD had come to Gad the prophet, David's seer:

/God sent the prophet Gad to David. /The word of God came to Gad the prophet. /1 Samuel 22:5. /God told David to choose from among three options. /First, a seven year famine. /1 Chronicles 21:12 says, three year famine.

/The original manuscript records this to be seven years. /It was recorded differently in the copies of the manuscript. /Second, three months of fleeing from his enemies.

/Third, three days of plague in the land. /God told David to choose from among the three options. /David then decided that it would be best to fall into the hands of God. /Thus, David chose the plague.

/As a result, seventy thousand people died. /This was a frightening disaster.

/Verse 16. /When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

/God is always a merciful God. /God shows mercy in the midst of his anger. /Habakkuk 3:2. /David repented. /The Israelites repented.

/Verse 17. /When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the LORD, "I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall upon me and my family."

/David sincerely repented before God. /David took responsibility for everything. /Jonah 1:12.

/Verse 18. /On that day Gad went to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."

/God sent the prophet Gad and told David to build an altar and give offerings to God on the threshing floor of Araunah. /"Araunah" is recorded as "Ornan" in 1 Chronicles 21:15. /This was located on Mount Moriah.

/This was the same mountain where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac. /Genesis 22:1 /Solomon would later construct the temple here. /2 Chronicles 3:1. /Hence, David bought the threshing floor of Araunah.

/Verse 24 says that David bought the threshing floor for 50 shekels of silver. /1 Chronicles 21:25 says that price of the site was 600 shekels of gold. /The 50 shekels of silver here is the price for the threshing floor. /The 600 shekels of gold is the price for the entire land for the construction of the temple.

/Verse 25. /David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and

fellowship offerings. Then the LORD answered prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

/David gave burnt offerings and fellowship offerings in the threshing floor of Araunah. /This shows that David repented. /David also obeyed the words of the prophet. /We too must immediately repent when we do something wrong.

/We must then immediately turn back. /We must be upright. /Then we must return to God. /David gave burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to God, which means that he received forgiveness of his sins before God.

/Here we will conclude the seventeenth lecture on 2 Samuel. /Thank you.