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# THE OLD TESTAMENT MONARCHY BOOKS

*1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles*

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# 2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 21

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- × **The history of David is concluded with Chapter 20**
  - + **Ch's 21-24 form a six-part appendix to 2 Samuel**
    - × **Concerned with David's policies & lists of those fighting with David**
    - × **Scholars are not certain when these events occurred during David's reign** x

# 2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 21 (cont'd)

## Appendix Part 1: The famine

- + **(2 Sam 21.1a) Israel experiences three years of famine**
- + **(21.1b-2) The Lord responded that it was because of the Gibeonites**
  - × **The story of the Gibeonites is in Josh 9**
    - ★ **(Josh 9.1-5) Swore they come from a far land to be servants to the Israelites, but are local**
    - ★ **(Josh 9.14-15) The Israelites made peace with them by swearing a covenant before the Lord**
  - × **But Saul attempted to eliminate them**
    - ★ **This was breaking a national covenant before God**
    - ★ **It also polluted the land (Num 35.33-34)**
    - ★ **Both Saul & the people were guilty, the famine was the punishment** x

# 2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 21 *(cont'd)*

## Appendix Part 1: The famine *(cont'd)*

- + **David seeks to correct the sin against the Gibeonites (21.3-4)**
  - × **The Gibeonites accept his repeated request (21.5-6)**
  - × **They asked for seven of Saul's descendants to be turned over to “hang them before the Lord”**
    - ★ **Principle of Deut 19.11-12**
  - × **David complies with the request (21.7-9)**
- + **Rizpah's vigil (21.10-14)**
  - × **David heard of this, and decided to give respect to the men**
    - ★ **He secured the bones of Jonathan and Saul from the men of Jabesh-gilead**
    - ★ **He had their bones buried in the tomb of Saul's father, Kish, as well as the seven men hanged**
    - ★ **vs 14: God was moved by further prayer of the people for the land's sake** x

# 2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 21 (cont'd)

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## **Appendix Part 2: A list of David's Heroes**

- + Part 2 describes battles early in David's reign, and the notable warriors who fought with him**
- + Battles with the Philistines followed a pattern**
  - × A giant was picked to be their champion**
  - × These were from the remaining members of the Rephaim (Deut 2.10-11)**
  - × A little pause for humor ...this information about the giants came from ....**

**The new Schaff-Herzog encyclopedia of religious knowledge: embracing Biblical, historical, doctrinal, and practical theology and Biblical, theological, and ecclesiastical biography from the earliest times to the present day (Vol. 1, p. iii).x**

# 2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 21 *(cont'd)*

## Appendix Part 2: A list of David's Heroes *(cont'd)*

- + **David saved in battle (21.15-17)**
  - × **The giant was Ishbi-benob**
  - × **Abishai assisted David and killed the giant**
  - × **The Israelite soldiers insisted that David not take part in battle anymore**
- + **Philistines battled twice at Gob (21.18-19)**
  - × **1st battle: Sibbecai slays another giant, Saph**
    - \* **(1 Chr 11.25,29) He was a member of the Thirty**
    - \* **(1 Chr 27.11) Later commander of the 8th division**
  - × **2nd battle: Elhanan killed the giant, Lahmi, Goliath's brother (1 Chr 20.5)**
- + **The fourth Philistine giant falls (21.20-22)**
  - × **David's nephew, Jonathan killed him x**

# 2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 22

## Appendix Part 3: David's Song of Deliverance

- + **Part 2 laid the background for why David praised the Lord**
  - × **Written by David acknowledging God's safekeeping & victories**
- + **Scholars don't agree on when this was written**
  - × **Some think this was written after Absalom's rebellion**
  - × **More likely to have been written after Saul's death and David's victories**
- + **Four parts**
  - × **Introduction: vss 2-4**
  - × **Narrative of God's interventions on his behalf: vss 5-19**
  - × **Foundation for his protection and success: vss 20-30**
  - × **Specific acts of God's intervention: vss 31-51**
    - ★ **God's goodness and character are highlighted**
    - ★ **David was confident that God's *character* will allow this to continue for him and his kingdom**
    - ★ **A theme arises: God's earthly kingdom to the Messianic Kingdom, with assurances that God's protection extends to every believer x**

# 2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 22 *(cont'd)*

## Appendix Part 3: David's Song of Deliverance *(cont'd)*

### + Praise of God (2 Sam 22.2-4)

- × **David uses illustrations to show his dependence on God**
  - \* **"rock" > stability, able to be counted on**
  - \* **"fortress", "stronghold" > a place of safety defending against onslaughts**
  - \* **"deliverer" > one who not only defends, but defends to the point of rescue and redemption**
  - \* **"shield" > a deflector of attacking blows**
  - \* **"horn of my salvation" > symbol of might**
  - \* **"refuge" > a place to escape to**
- × **The picture is one of "unchangeable faithfulness, permanence, and impregnable safety"**

James E. Smith , *Old Testament Survey Series: The Books of History* x

# 2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 22 *(cont'd)*

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## **Appendix Part 3: David's Song of Deliverance**

- × **Praise of God (2 Sam 22.2-4) *(cont'd)***
  - × **David recognized God as the Author of all his deliverances**
  - × **David described God's provisions repeatedly with adjective "my"**
  - × **David's last comment in all this praise > he called on the Lord, "...Who is worthy to be praised..."**
  - × **Martin Luther on this ...x**

# 2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 22 *(cont'd)*

## Appendix Part 3: David's Song of Deliverance

### + Praise of God (2 Sam 22.2-4) *(cont'd)*

**“This doctrine is in tribulation the most ennobling and truly golden. One cannot imagine what assistance such praise of God is in pressing danger. For as soon as you begin to praise God the sense of the evil will also begin to abate, the comfort of your heart will grow; and then God will be called on with confidence. There are some who cry to the Lord and are not heard. Why is this? Because they do not praise the Lord when they cry to Him, but go to Him with reluctance; they have not represented to themselves how sweet the Lord is, but have looked only to their own bitterness. But no one gets deliverance from evil by looking simply upon his evil and becoming alarmed at it; he can get deliverance only by rising above his evil, hanging it on God, and having respect to His goodness. Oh, hard counsel, doubtless, and a rare thing truly, in the midst of trouble to conceive of God as sweet, and worthy to be praised; and when He has removed Himself from us and is incomprehensible, even then to regard Him more intensely than we regard our misfortune that keeps us from Him! Only let one try it, and make the endeavour to praise God, though in little heart for it; he will soon experience an enlightenment.”**

***Martin Luther* x**

# 2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 22 *(cont'd)*

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## Appendix Part 3: David's Song of Deliverance *(cont'd)*

### + God's deliverance of David

#### × David's need for God's aid (2 Sam 22.5-7)

- ★ Note David's vivid description of how deep he was in danger

- ★ Why the net imagery ?

- ★ Was David exaggerating ?

- ★ David called out to God

- × Note again the personal relationship with God that David relied on

- vs 7b: "my cry for help came into His ears." x

# 2 SAMUEL CHAPTER 22 *(cont'd)*

## Appendix Part 3: David's Song of Deliverance

### + God's deliverance of David *(cont'd)*

#### + God's response to David's cries for help (22.8-15)

- + vss 8, 10: God's anger at David's enemies produces strong earthly effects

- + vs 9: The degree of God's anger is expressed in terms of heat, fire, and smoke

- + vs 11: God's coming to David's rescue was swift

- + vss 12-14: His appearance was awesome

- + vs 15: He scattered David's enemies before Him

- + Is this an illusion or actual actions ?

- + God rescues David from his enemies (22.16-20)

- + God has the power to deliver > He is truly sovereign over everything and everybody **x**