



God's Unrelenting Justice

2 Samuel 21

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□ Theme:

There is no escaping God's justice against sin

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Structure of 2 Samuel 21–24:

- A – Consequences of Sin (Saul's Sin) – 21:1–14
 - B – Victories of David's Mighty Men – 21:15–22
 - C – Psalm of David – 22:1–51
 - C¹ – Last Words of David – 23:1–7
 - B¹ – Victories of David's Mighty Men – 23:8–39
- A¹ – Consequences of Sin (David's Sin) – 24:1–25

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Two Examples of God's Justice Displayed Through David:

- I. Restitution for the Covenant of the Gibeonites
 - A. A Not-so-natural Disaster
 - B. A Tragic Conversation
 - C. A Public Execution

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Most readers, however, are simply aghast at the sheer horror of the episode. That, I suggest, points us to its primary application. Readers should be aghast. The text says atonement is horrible, it is gory. Atonement is never nice but always gruesome. We need to see this for we easily fall into the trap of regarding atonement as merely a doctrine, a concept, an abstraction to be explained, a bit of theology to be analyzed. Or, little better, to view it as a moving story to be re-played during Passion Week. But we should know better. ...From slicing the bull's throat in Leviticus 1 all the way to Calvary God has always said atonement is nasty and repulsive. Christians must beware of becoming too refined, longing for a kinder, gentler faith. If we've grown too used to Golgotha perhaps Gibeah (v. 6) can shock us back into truth: atonement is a drippy, bloody, smelly business. The stench of death hangs heavy wherever the wrath of God has been quenched.

Dale Ralph Davis

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Two Examples of God's Justice Displayed Through David:

- I. Restitution for the Covenant of the Gibeonites
 - A. A Not-so-natural Disaster
 - B. A Tragic Conversation
 - C. A Public Execution
 - D. A Mother's Sorrow
 - E. A Respectful Burial
 - F. A Merciful God

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Two Examples of God's Justice Displayed Through David:

- II. Recounting the Conquest of the Giants
 - A. Ishbi-benob vs. Abishai (David)
 - B. Saph vs. Sibbecai
 - C. Goliath? vs. Elhanan
 - D. The 6-fingered Man vs. Jonathan

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Application:

- God's Justice is Unavoidable!
 - 1. Repent of Personal Sin
 - 2. Pray for the Salvation of the Lost
 - 3. Marvel at the Cross



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